

P A P E R S

RELATING TO

THE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

CONCLUDED BETWEEN

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT

AND

THE LAHORE DURBAR,

On the 16th of December, 1846,

FOR

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAHORE STATE DURING
THE MINORITY OF THE MAHARAJAH DULEEP SING.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by the Command of Her Majesty,
March 1847.*

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L A H O R E.

PAPERS relating to the ARRIGLES of AGREEMENT for the Administration of the State of Lahore.

(Presented to Parliament by Her Majesty's Command.)

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LAHORE.

PAPERS relating to the ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT concluded between the British Government and the Lahore Durbar, on the 16th of December 1846, for the Administration of the Lahore State during the Minority of the Maharaja Dhuleep Sing.

PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY HER MAJESTY'S COMMAND.

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The Governor-general of India to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors of the East India Company.

(Extract.)

Camp, Left Bank of the Beas,
22 December 1846, No. 61.

In pursuance of the course which I observed at Lahore, when the treaty of peace was signed 1st March, I propose to publish for general information in the Calcutta Gazette a notification which will contain the articles of agreement signed at Lahore on the 16th of December.

The Right honourable the Governor-general of India is pleased to direct the publication of the following Notification:

Camp, Bhyrowal Ghat, on the Left Bank of the Beas,
22 December 1846.

THE late governor of Cashmere, on the part of the Lahore State, Sheik Imaum-ood-deen, having resisted by force of arms the occupation of the province of Cashmere by Maharaja Golab Sing, the Lahore Government was called upon to coerce their subject, and to make over the province to the representative of the British Government, in fulfilment of the conditions of the treaty of Lahore dated 9th March 1846.

A British force was employed to support and aid, if necessary, the combined forces of the Lahore State and Maharaja Golab Sing in the above operations.

Sheik Imaum-ood-deen intimated to the British Government that he was acting under orders received from the Lahore Durbar in the course he was pursuing, and stated that the insurrection had been instigated by written instructions received by him from the Vizier Raja Lall Sing.

Sheik Imaum-ood-deen surrendered to the British agent, on a guarantee from that officer that if the Sheik could, as he asserted, prove that his acts were in accordance with his instruction, and that the opposition was instigated by the Lahore minister, the Durbar should not be permitted to inflict upon him, either in his person or his property, any penalty on account of his conduct on this occasion. The British agent pledged his Government to a full and impartial investigation of the matter.

A public inquiry was instituted into the facts adduced by Sheik Imaum-ood-deen, and it was fully established that Raja Lall Sing did secretly instigate the Sheik to oppose the occupation by Maharaja Golab Sing of the province of Cashmere.

The Governor-general immediately demanded that the ministers and chiefs
58. of

of the Lahore State should depose and exile to the British provinces the Vizier Raja Lall Sing.

His Lordship consented to accept the deposition of Raja Lall Sing as an atonement for the attempt to infringe the treaty by the secret intrigues and machinations of the vizier. It was not proved that the other members of the Durbar had cognizance of the vizier's proceedings; and the conduct of the sirdars, and of the Sikh army, in the late operations for quelling the Cashmere insurrection, and removing the obstacles to the fulfilment of the treaty, proved that the criminality of the vizier was not participated in by the Sikh nation.

The ministers and chiefs unanimously decreed and carried into immediate effect the deposition of the vizier.

After a few days' deliberation, relative to the means of forming a government at Lahore, the remaining members of the Durbar, in concert with all the sirdars and chiefs of the State, solicited the interference and aid of the British Government for the maintenance of an administration and protection of the Maharaja Dhuleep Sing during the minority of his Highness.

This solicitation by the Durbar and chiefs has led to the temporary modification of the relations between the British Government and that of Lahore, established by the treaty of the 9th of March of the present year.

The terms and conditions of this modification are set forth in the following Articles of Agreement.

ARTICLES of Agreement concluded between the *British* Government and the *Lahore* Durbar, on the 16th of December 1846.

WHEREAS the Lahore Durbar, and the principal chiefs and sirdars of the State have, in express terms, communicated to the British Government their anxious desire that the Governor-general should give his aid and assistance to maintain the administration of the Lahore State during the minority of the Maharaja Dhuleep Sing, and have declared this measure to be indispensable for the maintenance of the government: And whereas the Governor-general has, under certain conditions, consented to give the aid and assistance solicited, the following Articles of Agreement, in modification of the Articles of Agreement executed at Lahore on the 11th of March last, have been concluded on the part of the British Government by Frederick Currie, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, and Lieutenant-colonel Henry Montgomery Lawrence, C.B., Agent to the Governor-general, North-western Frontier, by virtue of full powers to that effect vested in them by the Right honourable Viscount Hardinge, G.C.B., Governor-general, and on the part of his Highness Maharaja Dhuleep Sing, by Sirdar Tej Sing, Sirdar Shere Sing, Dewan Deena Nath, Fakeer Nooroodeen, Raee Kishen Chund, Sirdar Runjore Sing Majeethia, Sirdar Uttur Sing Kaleewalla, Bhaee Nidhan Sing, Sirdar Khan Sing Majeethia, Sirdar Shumshere Sing, Sirdar Lall Sing Morareeah, Sirdar Rher Sing Sundhunwalla, Sirdar Urjun Sing Rungrungaleah, acting with the unanimous consent and concurrence of the Chiefs and Sirdars of the State assembled at Lahore:—

Article 1. All and every part of the treaty of peace between the British Government and the State of Lahore, bearing date the 9th day of March 1846, except in so far as it may be temporarily modified in respect to clause 15 of the said treaty by this engagement, shall remain binding upon the two Governments.

Art. 2. A British officer, with an efficient establishment of assistants, shall be appointed by the Governor-general to remain at Lahore, which officer shall have full authority to direct and control all matters in every department of the State.

Art. 3. Every attention shall be paid, in conducting the administration, to the feelings of the people, to preserving the national institutions and customs, and to maintaining the just rights of all classes.

Art. 4. Changes in the mode and details of administration shall not be made, except when found necessary for effecting the objects set forth in the foregoing clause, and for securing the just dues of the Lahore Government. These details

details shall be conducted by native officers as at present, who shall be appointed and superintended by a Council of Regency, composed of leading chiefs and sirdars, acting under the control and guidance of the British Resident.

Art. 5. The following persons shall, in the first instance, constitute the Council of Regency, viz. Sirdar Tej Sing, Sirdar Shere Sing Attareewalla, Dewan Deena Nath, Fukeer Nooroodeen, Sirdar Runjore Sing Mueethea, Bhaee Nidhan Sing, Sirdar Uttur Sing Kalewalla, Sirdar Shumshere Sing Sindhunwalla; and no change shall be made in the persons thus nominated without the consent of the British Resident acting under the orders of the Governor-general.

Art. 6. The administration of the country shall be conducted by this Council of Regency, in such manner as may be determined on by themselves in consultation with the British Resident, who shall have full authority to direct and control the duties of every department.

Art. 7. A British force, of such strength and numbers, and in such positions as the Governor-general may think fit, shall remain at Lahore for the protection of the Maharaja and the preservation of the peace of the country.

Art. 8. The Governor-general shall be at liberty to occupy with British soldiers any fort or military post in the Lahore territories, the occupation of which may be deemed necessary by the British Government for the security of the capital, or for maintaining the peace of the country.

Art. 9. The Lahore State shall pay to the British Government 22 lacs of new Nanuck Shae rupees, of full tale and weight, per annum, for the maintenance of this force, and to meet the expenses incurred by the British Government, such sum to be paid by two instalments, or 13 lacs and 20,000 in May or June and eight lacs and 80,000 in November or December of each year.

Art. 10. Inasmuch as it is fitting that her Highness the Maha Ranee, the mother of Maharaja Dhuleep Sing, should have a proper provision made for the maintenance of herself and dependants, the sum of one lac and 50,000 rupees shall be set apart annually for that purpose, and shall be at her Highness's disposal.

Art. 11. The provisions of this engagement shall have effect during the minority of his Highness Maharaja Dhuleep Sing, and shall cease and terminate on his Highness attaining the full age of 16 years, or on the 4th of September of the year 1854; but it shall be competent to the Governor-general to cause the arrangement to cease at any period prior to the coming of age of his Highness, at which the Governor-general and the Lahore Durbar may be satisfied that the interposition of the British Government is no longer necessary for maintaining the government of his Highness the Maharaja.

This agreement, consisting of 11 articles, was settled and executed at Lahore by the officers and chiefs and sirdars above named, on the 16th day of December 1846.

(signed)

Tej Sing.
Shere Sing.
Dewan Deena Nath.
Fukeer Nooroodeen.
Rae Kishen Chund.
Runjore Sing.
Uttur Sing.
Bhaee Nidhan Sing.

Sirdar Khan Sing.
Shumshere Sing.
Lali Sing Morareeah.
Rher Sing.
Urjun Sing.
F. Currie.
H. M. Lawrence.

Papers relating to the Articles of Agreement concluded between the British Government and the Lahore Durbar, on the 16th of December, 1846, for the Administration of the Lahore State during the minority of the Maharajah Dulcep Sing.

No. 1.

The Governor-General of India to the Secret Committee of the East India Company.

(Extract.)

Simla, September 3, 1846. (No. 36.)

THE expression of my disappointment at the dilatory proceedings of the Durbar, in paying up the arrears of the disbanded troops, and the decided terms in which the Political Agent has been instructed to discourage all hope of the British garrison being retained in Lahore, beyond the end of the year, will probably prevent the Ranee and the Durbar from making any application for that purpose, as they must be aware that such solicitations for the continuance of foreign troops in the capital, must produce an effect on the minds of the Chiefs and the army, very unfavourable to the Regent and her Minister.

I am confident no permanent advantage to the interests of the Maharajah's Government would be derived from delay. Such a course, notwithstanding the good terms on which the British troops have remained with the people and the Sikh soldiery, would cause discontent to the troops, as well as the Chiefs, and excite great mistrust of the ultimate intentions of the British Government.

It is, therefore, my intention to withdraw the troops at the end of December, in accordance with the Articles of Agreement made with the Lahore Durbar, on the 11th of March, by which the British force was not to be detained at Lahore beyond the expiration of the current year.

The differences between the Lahore Durbar and the Dewan of Mooltan may be considered as adjusted, the Durbar waiving, for the present, the claim to station a Sikh garrison in Mooltan; and, as eighteen lacs of the revenue in arrear are ready to be paid into the Lahore Treasury, I trust that a portion of this sum will be immediately appropriated to satisfy the just claims of the old and new army.

If the next four months be diligently employed in completing their military arrangements, I anticipate no events which can render it an expedient course to prolong the occupation of Lahore by the British troops.

The opinion of Mr. Lawrence, as to the prospect of establishing a permanent Sikh Government, after the British troops withdraw from Lahore, is as satisfactory as I had any reason to expect. The main difficulty in carrying on a Government will consist in satisfying the expectations of the Chiefs, who, having received large jagheers from the favour or the fear of the various rulers in the Punjab, during the last five years of anarchy, are unwilling to submit to the reductions which justice and state necessity demand. These necessary measures of economy, if enforced by any Minister, would have caused the same Chiefs to combine against him; and there can be no doubt that Rajah Lal Sing in the performance of this duty, has made many enemies, each Chief resenting the Minister's act as a personal injury to himself, and being probably disposed to

revenge his wrong by those violent and vindictive means resorted to in all countries, but more especially in the East. The life of the Vizier must therefore be considered in danger. Of this danger he is well aware, and he seems disposed to secure his person by surrounding himself with Afghans and foreigners.

Every act of the British Government will be carefully shaped, so as to give the Minister every possible support; and no means will be omitted, to prove to the Government of the Maharajah the sincerity of our advice, and the impartiality of our conduct, on all points of conflicting interests arising out of the Treaty.

A change of the Vizier may suddenly take place by some act of violence similar to those which have so frequently been committed of late years at Lahore; but such a crime, however much to be deplored, will not, as I have before remarked, be decisive as to the stability of a Sikh Government. There is, I believe, a very strong desire on the part of the Chiefs and the people to preserve their national institutions and the Raj; and, if the selfish views and combinations of the Chiefs against the Government can admit of a compromise, and a regular system of paying the army should be adopted, I see no cause why a permanent Sikh Government may not be established.

The Maharajah's Government has no external enemy which it cannot successfully resist and punish; and it has strength sufficient to overcome all internal commotions from Mussulman tribes or other disaffected parties within its territories. Any differences with the Maharajah Golab Sing that may arise, are to be settled by British arbitration; and British counsel and good offices have been usefully interposed to adjust the differences with the Dewan of Mooltan.

A great change has been effected in the minds of the most turbulent classes of the Sikhs towards the British authorities; a change brought about by the just and judicious proceedings of the Political Agents, and also by the admirable discipline which has been maintained amongst the British garrison, by the temper and good management of Major-General Sir John Littler, K.C.B.

I am happy to say the garrison continue to be healthy, although the heat was stated to be excessive.

I do not apprehend that Sheik Imamooddeen will push his resistance any further, after the orders he has received from Lahore, and from Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence.

The two forces, of the Maharajah Golab Sing and the Sheik, being in presence of each other, may, by accident, come to blows; but the interests of the two chiefs are opposed to such a contingency, and, by a letter recently received by Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence from the Maharajah Golab Sing, it is evident he does not seem to expect a collision.

The Maharajah Golab Sing has sent five lacs of rupees to Kangra, in part payment of the twenty-five lacs of indemnity money due next October, which will complete the seventy-five lacs to be paid by the Maharajah under the Treaty; and I notice the fact as an indication of his readiness to fulfil all his engagements with punctuality.

No. 2.

The Governor-General to the Secret Committee.

(Extract.)

Simla, September 19, 1846. (No. 39.)

THE Officiating Agent, in pursuance of his instructions, has repeatedly declared to the Durbar, in the most decisive terms, that the British garrison would be withdrawn from Lahore during the month of December, in accordance with the Articles of Agreement, and the expressed determination of the Governor-General.

He was instructed to make this declaration to the different members of the Durbar, in order that there might be no misunderstanding, and that all might be prepared for the event. The declaration has been the means of eliciting, from the members of the Government, and the most influential Chiefs, their real sentiments as to the prospect of a Sikh Government being able to stand, when the British troops leave Lahore.

The result of these conversations with the different members of the Durbar has been a conviction for some days past, in the mind of the Officiating Agent, that the Government of the Vizier Rajah Lal Sing cannot be carried on when the British troops withdraw.

The only dissentient member of the Government appears to have been Dewan Deena Nath, who, before he left Lahore on his mission to Mooltan, stated to the Officiating Agent, that he saw no reason why the Government of Rajah Lal Sing should not stand, if the Rajah would conciliate the dissatisfied Chiefs.

The Vizier himself has voluntarily disclosed to Mr. Lawrence his apprehensions that the Government could not be carried on, and requested him to wait on the Maharanee the same evening, the 10th of September.

The Vizier Rajah Lal Sing, Bhaee Ram Sing, and the Faqueer Noorooddeen, his colleagues in the Government, were present, when Her Highness declared, that the existence of the Government, her own safety, and that of the young Prince Duleep Sing, depended on the British troops remaining at Lahore; that, if the troops withdrew, she must take her fate, but that evil would certainly arise on their departure.

The Durbar acquiesced in the Maharanee's sentiments, when the Officiating Agent very properly declared, that he had no expectation that the British Government would assent to any proposal for leaving the British troops in Lahore; and, after recapitulating the manner in which the advice of the Governor-General had been repeatedly neglected, concluded the interview by recommending the Durbar to express their wishes in writing to the Governor-General; the Officiating Agent having explained to them that he had no authority to hold out any hope that the application they had mentioned would be successful.

These opinions of the Vizier and the Durbar, you will observe, are in direct contradiction to their reiterated declarations. The application is also opposed to the terms of the Agreement of the 11th of March.

I directed the Secretary to the Government, Mr. F. Currie, to approve of the course taken by the Officiating Agent, and again to instruct him to hold out no hope of my acquiescing in such a request; and I desired the Officiating Agent to impress upon the Durbar my determination that the troops should be withdrawn at the prescribed period; and the instruction concludes by expressing my readiness to pay due attention to any proposals for a modification of the existing arrangements which the Maharanee and the Durbar may wish to make, and requiring the Durbar distinctly to state their reasons for making them.

I have subsequently received a letter from the Officiating Agent, of the 13th instant, stating that, on the preceding day, the Vizier had expressed to him a hope that the British Government would consent to allow the troops to remain six months beyond the prescribed term in Lahore, to which the Officiating Agent replied in the same terms as before.

You will observe that, since the 3rd of September, when I last addressed you, the hope then expressed by the Officiating Agent, that a Sikh Government might be able to stand when left to its own resources, has changed into conviction that it will fail; and the Vizier has now, for the first time, with the concurrence of the Regent and his colleagues of the Durbar, admitted that he will be unable to carry on the Government, unless he is supported by the British troops.

The Officiating Agent is well aware of my objections to hold the capital or the country, on the subsidiary system, that is, of employing British troops in maintaining a native administration, without the means of controlling its acts.

Since the receipt of the Officiating Agent's letters, reporting his own change of opinion, in consequence of the disclosures made by the Vizier's colleagues and other leading Chiefs, I have, for some days past, had my attention engaged in considering the best means of averting the confusion and anarchy which may ensue, if the British troops be withdrawn in December, and have been in daily communication with the Political Agent, Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence, to whom the Officiating Agent's letters are sent, and in whose local experience and general knowledge of the Punjab I place the greatest reliance.

You will observe that, in the present state of the Punjab, I must assume that the declarations of the Vizier and his colleagues, in admitting their inability to retain power, and carry on the Government, are sincere, and that their apprehensions are well founded. It remains, however, to be seen whether they will adhere to this view of their own inability, if the condition imposed of prolonging the occupation of Lahore should require the transfer of power from their hands to those of a British officer, residing at the capital, assisted by a Native Council, and supported by British troops.

I state this as being the alternative to which I may be induced to resort, if the Maharanee and Durbar should determine upon placing themselves in the hands of the British Government, and the influential Chiefs and people should agree with them in preferring this course, to that of withdrawing our troops from Lahore at the end of December, in strict fulfilment of the Agreement of the 11th of March, and leaving the Maharajah's Government to struggle through the difficulties in which, for the last six years, it has so constantly been involved.

in my last dispatch I explained the reasons which would induce me to determine on withdrawing the British troops from Lahore, in the month of December.

The avowal of the Vizier and his colleagues, on the 10th of September, has not been elicited by any suggestions offered to him by the Officiating Agent. That officer has treated the Vizier uniformly with respect, and his declarations have not originated in any attempt to excite his fears; but they appear to be the voluntary impressions of his own judgment, as shown in former conversations shortly after the Officiating Agent's arrival, when he expressed the danger, to which he was daily exposed, of being assassinated.

I have no doubt that the Vizier and the Durbar are convinced of the sincerity of the British Government's purpose to promote the establishment of a permanent Hindoo Government in the Punjab, and that the British Government has no desire to interfere in their internal affairs.

The Durbar has profited by our advice and mediation in settling their differences with the Dewan of Mooltan. They know that the Political Agent has abstained from enforcing the Article of the Treaty for the payment of the arrears to the disbanded soldiery, in order that the British authorities might not appear to court popularity at the expense of the Vizier's Government; that the greatest pains have been taken, and most successfully, to maintain a strict discipline amongst our troops; that the inhabitants of their great city can, for the first time during many years, sleep in safety; that the insolence and rapine of the Khalsa soldier have been repressed; and that, upon the whole, a most favourable change has been effected in the feelings of the Sikh people, and even soldiery, towards the British authorities, since the occupation of the capital in March last.

There can be no doubt of the great improvement of our relations with the people of the Punjab, in this short space of time, which is corroborated by the satisfaction which has followed the assessment of lands made in the Julunder and the ceded territories.

I notice this state of popular feeling, as far as it can be correctly ascertained, not only because its existence is a satisfactory proof that the occupation has been followed by desirable results, but because this disposition, on the part of the people, to confide in our justice and lenity, will be an essential means of carrying on a Government through a British Minister, if such an expedient should be adopted. At any rate you will be enabled to form a correct judgment of the present state of our relations with the Punjab.

In my despatch of the 3rd instant, I stated my impression that no permanent advantage to the Maharajah's interests, or to our own, would be derived by the continued presence, under existing circumstances, of our troops at Lahore. That opinion remains unaltered.

I do not think that the British Government would be justified in supporting a native Government in the Punjab, merely because it may conduce to the safety of a Regent, and a Minister obnoxious to the Chiefs and people, and to whom the British Government owes no obligations. These are the very individuals who, for personal interests of their own, excited the Sikh soldiery to invade the British frontier; and considerations of humanity to individuals would

be no plea for employing British bayonets in perpetuating the misrule of a native State, by enabling such a Government to oppress the people.

Our interference, if it should ever be called in, must be founded on the broad principle of preserving the people from anarchy and ruin, and our own frontier from the inconvenience and insecurity of such a state of things as that which, it is assumed, will follow when the British troops retire.

To continue to hold Lahore, without reforming the evils so clearly existing under the Vizier's Government, would not only, if that Government is to remain as it is now constituted, be an infraction of the Agreement entered into on the 11th of March, but would, in all probability, be an unsuccessful attempt. If the various classes who now justly complain of the misrule of the Regent and the Vizier, find that a British force, in opposition to the terms of the Treaty, continues to occupy Lahore in support of a bad Government, the confidence which we have inspired up to the present time, will be changed into mistrust of our intentions; the Sikh troops remaining unpaid would refuse to serve at the distant stations; and, with a British garrison at Lahore, the whole of the country beyond the Ravee would not fail to be a scene of disorder and bloodshed. I, therefore, adhere to the opinions expressed in my last dispatch, that the British garrison ought not to remain beyond the stipulated period, if a Native Government continues to administer the affairs of the Punjab.

I have, since my arrival in India, constantly felt and expressed my aversion to what is termed the subsidiary system, and, although it was probably most useful and politic in the earlier period of British conquest in India, I have no doubt of its impolicy at the present time, but more especially on this, the most vulnerable, frontier of our empire.

The period of the occupation of Lahore was expressly limited to the end of this year, for the purposes specified in the Agreement of the 11th of March, namely, that the Sikh army having been disbanded by the VIth Article of the Treaty, a British force should be left to protect the person of the Maharajah and the inhabitants of the city, during the reorganization of the Sikh army. By the XVth Article of the Treaty it was stipulated that the British Government would not exercise any interference in the internal affairs of the Lahore State.

At that time, the entreaties of the Regent for our assistance appeared to me not only reasonable, but as imposing upon me a moral duty, exacting, as I was at that very time, from the Lahore Government, the disbandment of their mutinous army. It is true this assistance, and the whole measure of occupation, was no part of the original policy in framing the Treaty, for you are aware that the application for our troops was made after the Treaty had been signed. But it was evident I had no alternative, if I felt confident, as I then did, that the British garrison would be able to effect its declared objects without compromising the safety of the troops. I, therefore, did not hesitate to afford the aid solicited, although I did so with reluctance.

On every occasion, the Lahore Government has been assured that the British Government deprecates interference in their affairs: they have been informed that our troops were ready to retire at any moment, if the reorganization of the Sikh army, and the improved state of the country, would admit of their being withdrawn.

It may be further observed, that the occupation of Lahore could not be considered in the light of a subsidiary arrangement, because the instructions given to the General officer and to the Political Agent, were, that the garrison was placed there to preserve the peace of the town, but was not to be employed in any expedition, even between the Ravee and the Sutledj.

The force was expressly given as a loan of troops for a peculiar emergency, and to aid the Lahore Government in carrying out an essential Article of the Treaty, which required the disbandment of their army. No payment was demanded, except for certain extra allowances granted to the native troops, whilst serving beyond the Sutledj.

If, therefore, the proposals of the Regent and the Durbar are merely confined to a further loan of British troops for six months, on the plea that a Hindoo Government cannot be carried on, unless supported by British bayonets, I am of opinion that the application must be refused.

There has been ample time for the reorganization of the Sikh army, and

by proper management the Durbar could have fulfilled the limited objects for which the British force was left at Lahore. The means of effecting these objects have been invariably neglected, in opposition to the friendly admonitions of the British Government. I have not failed to exhort the Vizier to pay the troops with regularity, as the only mode by which the Government and the army can be on good terms, and without which no efficient service, or correct discipline, can be expected. Two regiments have been recently driven into mutiny for want of pay—such a course being their only means of obtaining their just dues,—whilst estates of large value have been given to the brother of the Maharanee, as well as to the relations of the Vizier. It is surprising that, after the experience of the last five years, of a mutinous army controlling its own Government at Lahore, the Durbar cannot understand, or will not practise, so simple a system to ensure obedience.

It is not necessary that I should recapitulate the acts of impolicy and injustice which have marked the conduct of the Durbar during the last five months. Having a right to interfere, by the terms of the Treaty, in matters relating to the payment of the disbanded soldiery, I have frequently urged the Durbar to do their duty; and this advice, given with moderation, has led the Sikh Government to make the confession of its own weakness, and to implore the Governor-General to prolong the period of occupation.

It is impossible to place any confidence in the professions of the Maharanee or the Vizier, that the advice of a British Agent would be followed, if the garrison were to be permitted to remain: the British Government would, in such case, be a party to the oppression of all classes of the people. Again, if the troops are withdrawn, we are warned that the country will be plunged into a state of anarchy, and the destruction of all Government will ensue. Neither of these results would be consistent with the humanity, or the sincerity, of our policy, and they would be equally opposed to our best interests.

The other course—which it may be open to the British Government to take, and which has constantly occupied my attention since the 3rd of September—would be, to carry on the Government at Lahore in the name of the Maharajah during his minority (a period of about eight years), or for a more limited time, placing a British Minister at the head of the Government, assisted by a Native Council, composed of the ablest and most influential Chiefs.

This course, however, could not be adopted, even if the offer to surrender the Regency were to be made by the Maharanee, unless Her Highness' solicitations were cordially and publicly assented to by the great majority of the Chiefs.

If, therefore, the Chiefs should not join the Regent and the Durbar in calling upon the British Government to act as the guardian of the young Prince during his minority, and to conduct the administration, no attempt would be made to carry such a measure into execution. I should, in that case, scrupulously adhere to the terms of the Agreement. Those terms could not be suspended, even temporarily, without some such public act as that of assembling all the Chiefs who have an interest in the State, through the lands they hold from the Maharajah; and in any such proceeding, the proposal must originate with the Lahore, and not with the British authorities.

The marked difference between the system of having a British Minister residing at Lahore, and conducting the Government through native agency, and that which now prevails of a native Government administering the affairs of the State, without any interference, foreign or domestic, excepting from the Regent, would amount to this, that, in the one case, our troops are made the instrument for supporting misrule, and giving countenance and strength to oppression; in the other, by British interposition, justice and moderation are secured by an administration conducted by native executive agency, in accordance with the customs and feelings, and even prejudices, of the people. An efficient administration, working satisfactorily, being fairly established, the British interposition might be withdrawn; or, if necessary, it might continue till the coming of age of the Maharajah, when, as may be hoped, his country would be made over to him in a much improved and prosperous condition.

The principal means of ensuring a successful Government would consist in

the strict administration of justice between the Government and the people, in the regular payment of the troops, and the guarantee to the Chiefs, of the unmolested enjoyment of their estates, which should only be liable to forfeiture on a strong case of misconduct clearly proved.

The native officers of the army would remain, as at present, Generals and Colonels at the head of their troops; and innovations, unless required for important purposes of government, would not be introduced.

Such a system of British rule might not answer as a permanent one, but it might be adopted, if the Durbar and Chiefs are convinced that the Government, without such an alternative, would fall to pieces on the retirement of the British garrison.

If, therefore, the proposal of the Regent and Durbar should lead to an offer to carry on the Lahore Government by a British Minister, during the minority of the Maharajah, and the proposal should be confirmed by the influential Chiefs, publicly convoked for the deliberation of such a measure, I should be disposed to give to the experiment a favourable consideration.

If the establishment of a direct and active influence at Lahore could be effected by such an arrangement as that which I have described in this letter, I should, before I compromise the Government, depute the Secretary of the Government, Mr. F. Currie, to Lahore, there to confer with the Officiating Agent, receiving from him full reports of the real state of affairs in that capital.

Mr. Currie has great experience, a sound judgment, and excellent abilities. He conducted the negotiations at Lahore with the Durbar last spring, when the Treaty was framed by him, and, during the whole of that period, I derived the most valuable assistance from his counsels.

Assuming that the present apprehensions of the Vizier to carry on the Government should end in a proposal, such as I have described, I should send Mr. Currie to Lahore on a special mission, direct from the Governor-General; and if Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence's health will permit of his accompanying him, I shall avail myself of his abilities, by associating him with Mr. Currie, as was the case in a great part of the year at Lahore.

If no such proposal leading to modifications of the Treaty should be made, it is my intention to withdraw the British force from Lahore the latter end of December, in accordance with the Agreement. I shall, in this case, have afforded the Lahore Durbar every facility in my power, to avert the misfortune which the Vizier and his colleagues anticipate on the retirement of the troops; and you may be assured that, in the transactions now pending, the conduct of the British Government shall be strictly regulated by principles of justice and good faith.

With regard to the apprehended failure of the Vizier to establish a Sikh Government, I am satisfied it will not have been caused by any difficulties which might not have been obviated by a firmer Minister. At the same time, it must be admitted, that he has been placed in a position of great difficulty, which might have baffled the skill of an abler and better man. It is due, however, to the Rajah, and must be admitted, that he has on all occasions cheerfully assented to every proposal for the comfort and accommodation of the British troops.

If the hope, which I have expressed since last March, that a permanent Sikh Government might be formed, should be disappointed, the result will not prove that the measure could have been dispensed with at the time it was adopted.

The force was left expressly for the purpose of protecting the inhabitants of a large city from spoliation by a disbanded army. The occupation has fulfilled that object, and has given to the Sikh Government the time to reorganize their army; it has given to the Lahore Government the opportunity of performing its duty to the State; and if, from causes beyond the control of the Governor-General, the attempt to establish a Sikh Government should fail, that result can in no respect reflect unfavourably on the policy of the attempt. It has not impaired the British character; on the contrary, it has caused it to be respected, not only by force of arms, but by the removal of national prejudices. At the time I consented to the occupation, the question then raised by the opponents of the measure, was, not whether a Sikh Government would succeed or fail, but whether the British garrison could maintain its position in Lahore?

The risk of occupying the capital, in my judgment, was not commensurate

with the moral obligations imposed upon me, and the political advantages which have followed that act ; and, at this moment, it will not be forgotten by reflecting men, that a great military object has been obtained, of giving to this admirable Indian army a salutary lesson, that, under the firm management of an able commander, there are no difficulties in occupying a large town, the capital of a foreign nation, which cannot by good discipline be overcome.

I, therefore, never can regret a measure which, up to this hour, has secured the capital of a neighbouring State from ruin, and has maintained unimpaired the reputation of the British power throughout our Eastern Empire.

No. 3.

The Governor-General to the Secret Committee.

(Extract.)

Simla, September 19, 1846. (No. 40.)

IN the letters from Lahore of Mr. J. Lawrence, the delay and suspicious conduct of Sheik Imamooddeen, the Governor of Cashmere on the part of the Lahore Government, are adverted to, and the measures taken by the Durbar to procure the departure of the Sheik from Cashmere, are described.

I forward dispatches of the Governor-General's Agent, reporting the ultimate failure of Sheik Imamooddeen, to quit Cashmere at the promised time, and the occurrence of a collision between the troops of the Sheik and those of Maharajah Golab Sing, in which the latter were worsted, with the death of the Vizier Luckput Rae, and the dispersion of the Maharajah's force.

The details of this affair, as far as they are known, and the previous conduct of Sheik Imamooddeen, are so fully given in the inclosures of this dispatch, and the other papers referred to, that it is not necessary for me to describe them in this place. It is of more importance to consider the motives which may have induced Sheik Imamooddeen to put himself thus actively in opposition to the British Government and Maharajah Golab Sing, and to the reiterated orders of the Lahore Durbar; the consequences which may probably result from this affair; and the measures which it may be most expedient to adopt in reference to it.

From the first, Maharajah Golab Sing has expressed no apprehension about his obtaining the occupation of Cashmere. At Umritsir, after the completion of the Treaty, he urged that the Durbar should take measures for putting him into possession of the other districts made over to him, and the Hazareh; but he said that Sheik Moheooddeen and he were on an understanding with each other, and that his possession of Cashmere would be accomplished without difficulty. Early in April, Moheooddeen died, and his son, Sheik Imamooddeen, the former Governor of the Julunder, succeeded him. Maharajah Golab Sing stated that this would make no difference in his affairs, for that Sheik Imamooddeen was, equally with his father, in his (Golab Sing's) interest.

Accordingly, Maharajah Golab Sing sent a few regiments with Vizier Luckput Rae, to take possession of the district. These regiments arrived at the same time as Lord Elphinstone and Mr. C. Hardinge, and were forthwith put in possession of the Hurree Purbut, the principal fort at the capital; this was on the 21st of April last.

Maharajah Golab Sing would appear to have, at this time, entered into negotiation with Sheik Imamooddeen, to put his troops into the neighbouring districts, and to hold the Government of Cashmere under him.

Sheik Imamooddeen states that, at the requisition of Maharajah Golab Sing, he did put his troops into those districts, and that he has a claim against the Maharajah for their expenses.

What may have been the real nature of the negotiations between the Sheik and the Maharajah, it is impossible for us to know at present; but it appears that they ended in no satisfactory result. The Maharajah soon required the departure of Sheik Imamooddeen from Cashmere, and sent small reinforcements under Vizier Rutnoo to the support of Luckput Rae.

At the same time, Maharajah Golab Sing seems to have made some demands upon Sheik Imamooddeen, which the latter resisted; and the Sheik, under pretext of collecting balances of revenue, and requiring a receipt and acquittance from Vizier Luckput Rae, delayed from week to week his departure from Cashmere.

The Lahore Durbar, who had been continually pressed upon the subject of making over the transferred districts, Cashmere included, to the Maharajah, were directed to cause the immediate removal of Sheik Imamooddeen.

When the Sheik still delayed his return to Lahore, the Durbar sent a special and pressing order by the hands of Dewan Hakim Rae and Vakeel Sohun Lal, peremptorily directing him to make over the district to the Maharajah, and to repair to Lahore, where his accounts would be adjusted.

These persons appear to have made unnecessary delay on the road, and to have only reached Rajourie when the outbreak occurred, which is described, as far as its details are known, in the inclosures of this dispatch.

On the news of the open rebellion of Sheik Imamooddeen reaching Lahore, the Durbar sent off Sirdar Utter Sing Man, with other officers, to bring the Sheik away.

The result of the Sirdar's mission cannot yet be known; but it is not probable, in the present posture of affairs, that it has been successful. Deeply interested as the Lahore Durbar are in the fulfilment of all the provisions of the Treaty, it can scarcely be supposed that they have instigated or countenanced the Sheik's proceedings; and yet there is a strong impression on the minds of all the British officers on the spot, that Sheik Imamooddeen has all along had the sympathies, if not the covert connivance, of Rajah Lal Sing, and other influential parties at Lahore.

The above is a summary of the proceedings and orders for the transfer of Cashmere, from the Lahore Government to the Jummoo Maharajah.

The political connexion between Maharajah Golab Sing and the Sheiks Moheooddeen and Imamooddeen, is of old standing, and has been long notorious as of the closest description.

Moheooddeen, the father, began life as a shoemaker; he was a man of no family, character, or influence; but, being possessed of those talents for intrigue and self-aggrandisement, which were more likely to stand him in stead, in such a Government and society as that of the Sikhs in the Punjab, he contrived, with the assistance of the Dogras, and more particularly of Golab Sing, to raise himself from poverty and obscurity to a state of some eminence and of vast wealth.

About seven years ago, under the auspices, and by the instrumentality, of the Maharajah, Sheik Moheooddeen was appointed to the Government of the Cashmere district, and his son, Imamooddeen, to that of the Julunder Doab.

Sheik Moheooddeen was to have accounted to the Durbar for twenty lacs of Cashmere rupees per annum, of which six lacs were to be allowed him for the maintenance of troops, and the balance, fourteen lacs, was to be paid into the Lahore treasury.

The Sheik's payments at Lahore are stated not to have exceeded six lacs per annum since he assumed the Government, and part of which has been remitted in shawl goods. No accounts have been rendered during the whole seven years.

The same statement of short payments, and failure to render any account of seven years' collections is equally applicable to Sheik Imamooddeen, in respect to the Julunder Doab.

The Sheiks are known to have sent across the Sutledj upwards of a crore of rupees, in specie, shortly before the late invasion of our territories by the Sikh army.

What may have been the inducement to Sheik Imamooddeen to take the course he is now pursuing, it is not easy to conjecture. He had immense wealth in money and a jagheer at Julunder, which we had upheld, yielding nearly a lac per annum. He cannot expect to maintain himself in Cashmere, against Maharajah Golab Sing and the Sikh and British Governments.

The Sheik was doubtless placed in a position of much difficulty in regard to securing the whole of his ill-gotten wealth. He is believed still to have touch in Cashmere; the locality of which, and all the circumstances under which it was obtained, are doubtless well known to the Maharajah, who was

bent on appropriating it, if possible. After the transfer of the province, its removal became difficult.

Again, the Sikh Government summoned him to Lahore, and spoke of an adjustment of accounts. The Sheik well knew that he had rendered no account for seven years; that his spoliation was notorious; and that the Durbar were aware of his full ability to pay a large sum as balance of arrears, which their exigencies would induce them the more rigorously to demand.

This was doubtless a dilemma; but the mode which he has adopted to avoid it is a desperate one. His money in Cashmere will be soon exhausted by the large force he is said to be collecting. His jagheer in our provinces will be confiscated, and his property attached; and the result of his enterprise, though it may cause trouble, and is much to be regretted, cannot be doubtful.

The Lahore Durbar are bound by the IVth Article of the Treaty of Lahore, to put us, or our representative, in possession of the Province of Cashmere. This they have not done, and their officer is now in open rebellion in the district.

In the present state of our information, I cannot tell precisely what measures it may be necessary ultimately to take. You will perceive that I sent Colonel Lawrence's Assistant, Lieutenant Edwardes, to Jummoo, to make Maharajah Golab Sing exert himself, and to urge him to advance at once with his disposable force to Cashmere. I have called on the Lahore Government to place at the disposal of the Maharajah such of their regiments and generals, as he himself may select to accompany him; and Brigadier Wheeler has been warned to be ready to advance with a portion of the Julunder force to Bissowlee and Jummoo, to support Maharajah Golab Sing's rear, and, should he wish it, to hold his territory for him during his absence.

I shall be well satisfied if by these means the revolt of the Sheik may be put down, and the occupation by Maharajah Golab Sing accomplished. Any delay in the commencement of operations will be inexpedient. The Mahomedan Hill Rajahs in the neighbourhood of Cashmere, appear to have already joined the Sheik; the Hazarehs will doubtless follow the example; and there is much disposition to revolt in all the western districts.

The season of the year is somewhat in favor of the rebels making a protracted resistance, as, towards the end of November, most of the passes into Cashmere are closed, and the troops proceeding there will not be able to return till after the winter.

In a few days, our information will be more full, and I shall be the better able to concert measures adapted to the circumstances. I shall not move British troops to Cashmere if I can avoid it.

It is worthy of remark, that Sheik Imamooddeen has caused the Sikh emissaries, Dewan Hakim Rae and Vakeel Sohun Lal, to be treated with all consideration and respect at Rajourie, whence they last wrote; while he has proclaimed that Maharajah Duleep Sing is the Sovereign of Cashmere, and himself the Rajah's subadar; (which looks as if he were doubtful of those about him supporting his independence;) while, on the day at the close of which the attack on Maharajah Golab Sing's force took place, it is said to have been industriously circulated at the Bazaar of Cashmere, that the British troops had been attacked and defeated at Lahore, and the young Maharajah killed.

All the British officers who had gone to visit Cashmere had left the valley before the outbreak occurred, excepting Captains Broome and Nicolson, who were on the borders, and, on hearing of the affair, proceeded into the Maharajah's territory.

The Governor-General to the Secret Committee.

(Extract.)

Simla, October 4, 1846. (No. 42.)

IN my dispatch of the 19th September, 1846, No. 40, I reported the defeat and dispersion of the forces of Maharajah Golab Sing, by those of the Sheik Imamooddeen, in the valley of Cashmere; and I stated the steps I had taken, in urging the Maharajah to make more active exertions, and in calling upon the Lahore Durbar to place at the disposal of the Maharajah such of the Sikh regiments and generals as His Highness might himself select. I also ordered

6 Regiments of Native Infantry,
2 Ditto of Irregular Cavalry, and
12 Field Guns,

under Brigadier Wheeler, to be held in readiness to march from the Julunder towards Jummoo, for the purpose of protecting the Maharajah's rear, in his absence.

On the evening of the 21st September, the Maharajah's Vakeel, Joala Sohaie, reached Simla, and, after conferring with the Political Agent, declared that the movements proposed to be made by Brigadier Wheeler's force, would best fulfil the Maharajah's wishes; and I accordingly, on the 22nd, addressed the Commander-in-chief, requesting that the Brigadier might be ordered to advance; and I expect to hear that the troops will, about the 8th or 9th, have reached their destination; three regiments of infantry, one of irregular cavalry, and six guns, being posted in the neighbourhood of Jummoo.

On the 24th, I desired the Political Agent to obtain from the Maharajah's Vakeel a full and distinct exposition of his master's intentions and means; and the answers given by the Vakeel to the questions put to him by the Political Agent, will show you that the measures, already taken, of preparing the force under Brigadier Wheeler, and the demand made upon the Lahore Durbar for all the available Sikh troops, had anticipated the Maharajah's wishes, and that he not only did not expect or desire that a British force should be actually employed against Cashmere, but, on the contrary, preferred that his own troops, aided by the Sikh forces, should be employed for the purpose. I desired that His Highness might be cautioned not to conceal his real views, or delay making known to me his wishes, until the season might be too far advanced to afford him the assistance he desired.

On the following day, the 25th of September, a letter, dated the 17th, was received from Lieutenant Edwardes, the Assistant Political Agent, who had been ordered to proceed to Jummoo, in which letter he reported the substance of conversations he had held with the Sheik Imamooddeen's Vakeel, on his way to Cashmere. The Sheik's Vakeel, Poorun Chund, repeatedly asserted, that his master, the Sheik, had been secretly instigated in his resistance to the Maharajah Golab Sing in Cashmere, by communications sent to him by the Vizier Lal Sing, and that the Sheik possessed letters to this effect, written by the Vakeel, and signed by Rajah Lal Sing at Lahore.

By the same post from Lahore, information was received that the Maharanee had held a confidential conversation with Bhace Ram Sing, explaining to him her position and that of the Vizier, and attaching the greatest importance to the recovery of letters addressed to the Sheik by the Vizier, on the subject of Cashmere.

These reports, received from different quarters, combined with the delays and evasions of the Vizier during the preceding five months; his failure to depute the persons to Cashmere, pointed out by the Political Agent as the most proper to be sent to the Sheik; and the slow progress towards Cashmere made by the two Sikh emissaries, Dewan Hakim Rae and Vakeel Sohun Lal, sent, at last, by the Durbar, after the reiterated representations of the Agent, were circumstances calculated to excite a just suspicion that the Vizier Lal Sing was implicated in the Sheik's misconduct, by secretly encouraging the Lahore Governor of Cashmere to resist the orders publicly sent to him by his Government, to withdraw from

the province, delivering up the country to the Maharajah, in pursuance of the Treaty.

I, therefore, in my instructions to Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence, desired him to omit no efforts to ascertain the truth of the declarations made by the Sheik's Vakeel to Lieutenant Edwardes, being determined, if these statements could be substantiated, at once to adopt measures against the Vizier, which should not only terminate our official communications with him, but should deprive him of power, in consequence of his treasonable intrigues, by which the fulfilment of so important an Article of the Treaty was intentionally evaded.

So long as the Sheik is able to defend the passes and maintain his ground in Cashmere, he will, in all probability, not produce the proofs which his Vakeel declares he possesses, showing that he has been acting under the orders of his own Government.

It appears to me also improbable that Rajah Lal Sing should have committed himself to the extent of signing letters written by the Sheik's Vakeel; but it is not unlikely that he may, under the impulse of his hatred of Maharajah Golab Sing, have held conversations with the Vakeel, encouraging the Sheik to resist, in order to give the Maharajah as much trouble as possible: and intimating, that the Sheik, for thus acting, would be rewarded by the Vizier, by causing the claims of the Lahore Government for his arrears of revenue to be favourably settled.

I considered it expedient, under these circumstances, to be prepared for any event, either to support Brigadier Wheeler, or check any disposition of the Mussulman population of the Hazareh country to rise, in consequence of the recent events in Cashmere; and I, therefore, issued instructions to hold

Her Majesty's 80th Regiment,
3 Regiments of Native Infantry,
12 Guns,

in readiness to move forward from Lahore on Sealkote, so as to unite, if necessary, with the Julunder force; this force to be replaced at Lahore by

Her Majesty's 62nd Regiment,
3 Regiments of Native Infantry,
2 Regiments of Cavalry, and
12 Guns,

from Ferozepore. These forces at Lahore and Ferozepore are fully prepared to move at the shortest notice.

There are two letters attached to the correspondence, written by the son of the Rajah of Rajourie, which have some interest. The first describes the action between the Sheik's forces and the Maharajah's, by which it would appear that the collision was brought about by some stray shots from the Maharajah's forces. The second letter, intercepted by the Vizier Lal Sing, gives the son's narrative to his father, of the rising of all the Mussulman tribes of the hills; the steps taken by the Sheik to induce the Khyberees and the Eusofzyes to move on to the right bank of the Indus; whilst to the eastward, on the side of Ladak, he had employed emissaries to induce the population to rise against the Maharajah. No mention is made of the Affghans moving upon Peshawur, although there are several of this tribe in Cashmere.

This letter may have been written for the purpose of being intercepted; but there can be no doubt that the Sheik will very naturally take every means to support himself, by an appeal to Mussulman hopes, and religious fanaticism.

The Maharajah has declared his wishes that the British troops should afford him the aid he requires, by protecting his rear, and not by active co-operation in the hills; and, as in the present aspect of affairs, with reference to the conduct of His Highness and the Lahore Government, I am by no means satisfied that there is an obligation on our part to put down the rebellion by British bayonets, I propose to confine our co-operation to the mode already agreed upon between the Political Agent and his Vakeel.

I say, the present aspect of affairs, with reference to the conduct of both parties, for you will observe that it is stated, in respect to Maharajah Golab

Sing, that his Vizier and troops having been put in possession of the chief fort, the Hurree Purbut, he opened negotiations with Sheik Imamooddeen, as to continuing in the civil government of the province, and requested the Sheik to remain till he sent full reinforcements to assume military occupation; and, in respect to the Durbar, that the most serious accusations (supported by strong presumptive evidence) are made of the recusance of the Sheik to leave Cashmere, and his subsequent misconduct, being attributable to the secret instructions he received from the Vizier.

His Highness is well aware that he has by his own injudicious arrangements with the Sheik Imamooddeen, brought upon himself much of the embarrassment under which he is now labouring, but which he attributes, and probably with reason, to the intrigues of the Vizier Lal Sing.

If a further demonstration towards Bhimber should be advisable, I shall not hesitate to move up that portion of the Lahore force ordered to be in readiness, uniting it with the force from the Julunder, if both cross the Chenab, keeping one or two regiments in the neighbourhood of Jummoo, should it be absolutely required.

If the operations by Maharajah Golab Sing and the Sikh troops against Cashmere should be long protracted, or fail, and the portion of our troops on the Chenab should be required to remain in advance of Lahore, beyond the end of December, I shall, of course, continue to hold Lahore by a strong British garrison.

I am in hourly expectation of receiving more explicit information of the state of affairs in the neighbourhood of Rajourie; and my impression is, in the absence of the information I require, that I shall move up the Lahore portion of the force now held in readiness to march, and replace it by the troops from Ferozepore.

No. 5.

The Governor-General to the Secret Committee.

(Extract.)

Simla, October 23, 1846. (No. 47.)

I HOPED, at one time, to be able, by this mail, to report, for your information, the termination of the Cashmere rebellion, and the settlement of the affairs of that province.

The measures which are in operation for the coercion of Sheik Imamooddeen, and particularly the prompt and decided determination we have evinced, of supporting Maharajah Golab Sing, have had the effect I expected, of proving to the Sheik the hopelessness of his resistance, and of detaching from him some of his most valuable adherents.

Sheik Imamooddeen has put a stop to all hostile operations against the Fort of Hurree Purbut, occupied by the Maharajah's troops; he has formally declared his submission to the Lahore Government, and his intention of surrendering himself to Lieutenant Edwardes, who is accompanying the troops of Maharajah Golab Sing.

The impression is general and strong, that the Sheik was really preparing to leave Cashmere, and that he would offer no further opposition to the occupation of the province by Maharajah Golab Sing.

No relaxation has been made in the vigour of the operations for coercing him; nor will the operations be discontinued, until the Sheik is actually in the Sikh or Jummoo camp, and his troops dispersed, and Cashmere occupied.

It is impossible to rely with confidence on the sincerity of the assurances of a person of the Sheik's character, and under the influence which he is described, in these papers, as being exposed to; but my belief is, that, as he was certainly making no preparations to oppose the Lahore and Jummoo troops in the passes, he has, by this time, surrendered, and that by the next mail I shall have the gratification of reporting to you the termination of this affair.

*The Governor-General of India to the Secret Committee.**Camp, Mundi,*

(Extract.)

November 3, 1846. (No. 49.)

I HEREWITH transmit the letter, addressed by Lieutenant Edwardes, Assistant Political Agent to Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence, reporting that the Chief of Rajourie had, on the 19th of October, in person submitted himself to the British authorities and to the Maharajah Golab Sing.

This chief is not only at the head of one of the most powerful Mussulman tribes in the hills on the Punjab side of the Peer Pinjal Pass into Cashmere, but has the reputation of being a leader of well-established energy and decision of character. His secession from the Sheik Imamooddeen, could not fail to have a strong influence in inducing the other Mahomedan chiefs to forsake the Sheik's cause, and I have every reason to believe that the greater portion of these petty chiefs have already withdrawn their forces and retired to their homes.

A more important fact is, however, reported in a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence, of the 25th October, in which he reports that the Sheik had written from one march on this side of the city of Cashmere, on the 23rd October, stating that he had left Cashmere on that day, according to his promise, and had made one day's march towards the Baramgulla Pass; and one of the messengers stated that the Sheik had delivered up the fort of Sher Ghurree, and the town of Cashmere, to Vizier Rutnoo, the officer of the Maharajah Golab Sing left in command of the Hurree Purbut.

I daily expect to hear from Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence, that the Sheik has presented himself to him in the Maharajah's camp.

The movement of the troops will, however, still continue, and you will observe by the statement contained in Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence's demi-official letter of the 24th of October that, in addition to the force under Sirdar Tej Sing, a body of Sikh troops under Sirdar Chuttur Sing and Shere Sing, from Rawul Pindee, had passed Poonch, and were marching towards Sirdar Tej Sing, for the purpose of entering Cashmere, as near as it may be practicable to the force under the latter, instead of advancing into Cashmere by the Baramula Pass, thereby effecting a concentration of the Sikh forces.

A portion of the force under Maharajah Golab Sing had united with the Sikh force under Tej Sing, near Thanah.

The British force which marched from the Julunder, under Brigadier Wheeler, had crossed to the right bank of the Chenab River, and that which had marched from Lahore, under Major-General Sir J. Littler, remained on the left bank of the Chenab, ready in twenty-four hours to form a junction with Brigadier Wheeler, and advance on Bhinber or Nowshera, whenever required to do so.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence states that these combined forces amount to about 30,000 men, and he expresses his satisfaction at the very cheerful manner in which the Sikh troops have performed long and harassing marches.

I confidently expect to hear that the Sheik has submitted without a further struggle. I defer making any comment on the recent events in Cashmere, until I receive Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence's report, giving the Sheik's explanation of his conduct, and I equally defer expressing to you the approbation I feel for the ability and energy displayed by Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence, Mr. J. Lawrence, Lieutenant Edwardes, and Lieutenant Lumsden, during these transactions.

The city of Lahore and the neighbouring country remain in a state of perfect tranquillity.

The arrangement between the Lahore Durbar and the Dewan of Mooltan, has been finally settled. In addition to the eight lacs of arrears paid by the Dewan, on his arrival at Lahore, he has agreed to pay 8,90,000 more at once, and 19,68,000 yearly, for the territory now held by him, about one-third of the country having been transferred from the Dewan to the management of the Lahore Durbar.

No. 7.

*The Governor-General to the Secret Committee.**Camp, Nairae,**(Extract.) November 21, 1846. (No. 55.)*

ON closing my last letter to you, relative to the affairs of Cashmere, I stated my confident hope of being able, when I next addressed you, to announce the complete occupation, by Maharajah Golab Sing, of the Province of Cashmere.

That hope has been realized. The Maharajah entered the capital on the morning of the 9th of this month, and was, when the last accounts came away, engaged in arrangements for the administration of the country.

The arrival of Maharajah Golab Sing in Cashmere is described by Colonel Lawrence as by no means displeasing to the inhabitants of the province, who were loud in their complaints of the tyranny and oppression of Sheik Imamooddeen.

Sheik Imamooddeen left Cashmere, according to his promise, on the 23rd of October, and reached the camp of the Governor-General's Agent at Thanah on the 1st instant.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence's letters of the 1st and 2nd of the month describe what passed at his first interviews with the Sheik, who placed in Colonel Lawrence's hands three original documents, purporting to be instructions from the Minister Rajah Lal Sing to the Sheik, to oppose Maharajah Golab Sing; and to the officers and soldiers in Cashmere, to be faithful and obedient to the orders of the Sheik.

On the return of Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence to Lahore, which will take place before the end of the month, a strict investigation will be made into the authenticity of these documents, and into the conduct of Rajah Lal Sing, in respect to the Cashmere rebellion—the result of which inquiry, and the proceedings I may think it necessary to adopt in reference to the circumstances and facts that may be elicited, I shall report fully hereafter.

My present intention is, that Mr. Currie should proceed to Lahore, to meet Colonel Lawrence on his return, when the investigation will be conducted by these officers in concert—and when, it is probable, a formal application will be made by the Chiefs, in the name of the Maharajah and themselves, for the continuance of a British force at Lahore.

I have, in my letter No. 39, dated 19th September, fully explained my views and the proceedings I may adopt in the event of this application being made. The inclosure No. 8 of this dispatch is a copy of the orders and instructions communicated by me to Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence and the officers acting under him, on the announcement of the successful issue of the operations for coercing Sheik Imamooddeen, and placing Maharajah Golab Sing in possession of Cashmere. I am satisfied that the approbation bestowed in this paper on the parties concerned in these operations will be concurred in by you, to whom the result of the proceedings adopted by my instructions, whereby the object of the Government of India has been accomplished without bloodshed, will be, I am sure, gratifying.

The conduct of the Sikh troops, under the same officers that led them so lately in their invasion of our provinces, now employed in carrying out the conditions of the Treaty of Lahore, (and perhaps the least palatable part of those conditions,) under the instructions of British officers, cannot but command your admiration.

*The Governor-General to the Secret Committee.**Camp, Sham-Chourassie,**December 4, 1846. (No. 57.)*

(Extract.)

IN my last dispatch I announced the occupation of the Province of Cashmere by the troops of Maharajah Golab Sing.

The British force which I had moved up to the Chenab River, amounting to 11,000 men and 24 guns, have returned to Lahore and our own provinces, having, in concert with the Sikh troops and those of the Maharajah Golab Sing, accomplished all the objects which I had in contemplation when the movement was ordered. I was anxious that this force should move out of the Punjab before the investigation into the Sheik's conduct in Cashmere should commence, in order that there should be no appearance of resorting to military coercion on that occasion, or in any of the subsequent proceedings at Lahore.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence has, with his usual activity, returned from Cashmere to Lahore.

It will be gratifying to you to learn, that the conduct of the Maharajah throughout the late operations, is described by the Political Agent as most satisfactory. His Highness has acquiesced in several proposals most judiciously made to him by Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence, for the purpose of ameliorating the condition of the people, as well as for the more regular and liberal payment of His Highness' troops.

The Maharajah has agreed to continue to the Hill Chiefs all jagheers granted to them one year before the Sheik Moheooddeen's death, and further, to remit one-fifth of the tribute formerly paid by all to the successive Sikh Governors.

The Chiefs of Rajourie and Jesrotas have received assignments of land bordering on the British territory; and, with two exceptions which are satisfactorily accounted for, all the Chiefs of the Hill districts have made their submission to the Maharajah.

It may be considered an indication of the confidence of these Chiefs, and of the good understanding which exists between them and the Maharajah, that although His Highness offered to give up lands upon the guarantee of the British Government that the stipends agreed upon should be paid to any of the Chiefs who preferred to reside in the British territories, all expressed their willingness to remain under his government.

I am also in hopes that arrangements will be made with the Maharajah, by which the cultivators of the soil in Cashmere may be relieved from much of the oppression which they have hitherto experienced whilst under the Sikh rule, by the custom of re-selling at an arbitrary rate that portion of the crops taken by the Sovereign as his revenue.

The Maharajah distinctly pledges himself to relinquish the practice of trading on his own account in the produce of the country, which, if persisted in under an arbitrary Government, cannot fail to impoverish, and ultimately ruin all classes of his subjects.

The Maharajah has issued proclamations for the levy of customs at points fixed on the frontier, and for the abolition of inland duties. His Highness has also determined upon assembling the heads of villages, with the view of fixing, in concert with them, the rates at which the Government grain shall be sold.

The Maharajah has at the same time consented, that the crime of infanticide, prevalent among the Rajpoot population in his dominions, shall be strictly prohibited under severe penalties; and that he will use his best endeavours to abolish the rite of Suttee.

I shall take every opportunity of encouraging His Highness to persevere in these good intentions. The population of Cashmere, since the conquest of the country by the Sikhs, has been brought to so low a state of poverty, as to render extortion no longer profitable. The means of plundering the people have been exhausted; and I confidently expect, under the Maharajah's government, that their condition will improve, as His Highness is too sagacious not to discover his own permanent interest; and it is but just to state, that, according to the testimony of recent travellers, the peasantry under the immediate rule of the Maha-

rajah around Jummoo, are in a superior state of comfort to the ryots of the petty chiefs in the hills.

In my last dispatch I informed you of my intention to depute Mr. F. Currie, Secretary to Government in the Foreign Department, to Lahore, for the purpose of investigating, in conjunction with Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence, the causes which led to the Cashmere insurrection, the Sheik, in his defence, having declared that he acted in obedience to the orders he had received from the Vizier Rajah Lal Sing and the Lahore Durbar.

I have, in a letter addressed to Mr. Currie, of the 23rd November, instructed that officer as to the course which I have deemed it expedient to pursue. The instructions are framed on the view taken by me of the state of affairs in the Punjab, in my dispatch to you of the 19th of September.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence having arrived at Lahore on the 30th of November, and Mr. Currie on the following day, I am in hourly expectation of receiving intelligence from Lahore, and shall keep this dispatch open to the last moment.

P.S.—The inclosed letter from Mr. Currie will apprise you of the arrangements made at Lahore, for the inquiry into the Sheik's conduct.

The course which has been determined upon by Mr. Currie, on consultation with Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence and Mr. J. Lawrence, has my full approbation, as being the best adapted to remove many of the objections which would have attended a mixed commission of Sikh Sirdars, associated with British officers, for the investigation; or, on the other hand, the selection of a tribunal entirely composed of Sikh functionaries.

I am convinced, from the prudence and sound judgment of Mr. Currie, and his experience in judicial proceedings, that the inquiry will be so conducted as to satisfy the Sikh community of its impartiality.

A large number of the Sirdars had assembled in the city, with their armed followers; and the most influential Chiefs had been invited to attend the proceedings.

You will not fail to observe the extraordinary progress made in removing national prejudices, and conciliating the good opinion of the Sikh nation during the last eight months, by the fact that five English gentlemen are now sitting in judgment on the conduct of the Durbar in the Sikh capital, conscious that the reliance of the Chiefs is attributable to their confidence in the good faith and justice of the British character.

Camp, Kartarpore, December 5, 1846.

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

The Governor-General to Frederick Currie, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, with the Governor-General.

(Extract.)

Camp, Hoshiarpore, November 23, 1846.

IN my dispatch to the Secret Committee of the 19th of September, in which the probable necessity of exercising a direct and active influence in the Government of Lahore is discussed, I stated that it was my intention, before I undertook such a line of policy, to depute you to Lahore, for the purpose of receiving full reports of the real state of affairs, having the utmost confidence in your experience, sound judgment, and ability, and to associate Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence with you in such a mission, since which period that officer has, by his energy and talents, justified all my anticipations, by overcoming the difficulties which had arisen out of the Cashmere insurrection.

You will, therefore, be so good as to make your arrangements to proceed to Lahore on a special mission as the representative of the Governor-General, where you will meet Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence, the end of this month.

The first question which will require your immediate attention, will be an investigation into the conduct of the Sheik Imamooddeen, in resisting, by force of arms, the execution of the Lahore Treaty, relating to the cession of the Province of Cashmere. The line of defence which he has adopted, by asserting that he has acted in obedience to the orders of the Lahore Government, of which

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he was the servant, will indirectly, but substantially, place the Vizier Rajah Lal Sing on his trial.

The whole of the papers and documents having passed through your department, you are fully apprized of all the details, into which I need not enter. The result, however, of the investigation, will probably produce important consequences as affecting the Government of which the Ranee is the head as Regent, and the Rajah Lal Sing the Vizier.

If it be proved that the Vizier secretly encouraged the Sheik to violate the Treaty which the Lahore Durbar was bound faithfully to carry into effect, the immediate consequence of this betrayal of duty to the Maharajah Duleep Sing, and of good faith to the British Government, will be the deposition of the Vizier.

If the authenticity of the documents produced by the Sheik, in palliation of his own criminal conduct, be disproved, that individual must take the consequences of his own misdeeds; but it is apparent, from the nature of the papers which he has produced, that the investigation will in reality be the trial of the Vizier Rajah Lal Sing and the Durbar.

The conviction of the Lahore Government in being implicated in a gross and violent infraction of the Lahore Treaty, might, if pushed to the extreme limit of our right, lead to very serious consequences; but it is not my intention to make the Lahore State responsible for the misconduct of one or more individuals, when there is every reason to believe that the misconduct is to be attributed to personal hatred of the Maharajah Golab Sing, and not to any political combination to violate the Treaty with the British Government. The individuals, however, who may be implicated must be held responsible for their conduct in this transaction, whatever may have been the original object of the intrigue. I am, however, disposed to give to the chiefs and to the Sikh soldiery, the greatest credit for their meritorious conduct, in promptly and loyally obeying the orders they received to march to Cashmere, under difficult and adverse circumstances, cheerfully acting under the advice of British officers.

This praiseworthy conduct will be prominently brought forward in the letter to the Maharajah, apprizing His Highness of my intention to depute you to Lahore; and I need scarcely observe, that the good temper and cordial co-operation of the Sikh troops under Sirdar Tej Sing, in the accomplishment of an object in which they might naturally be expected to act with reluctance, is an atonement, as far as the State is concerned, for the breach of the Treaty by a servant of the Durbar, if I am to assume that the Vizier is implicated in the Sheik's misconduct.

It is, however, clear, that the investigation will compel the Vizier and the Durbar, publicly to vindicate their conduct.

It, therefore, becomes an object of importance, that the forms and mode of the investigation should be carefully considered. With the experience you possess while presiding in our courts of law in the Regulation Provinces, I have no doubt you will deem it to be an essential object, so to arrange the inquiry into the Sheik's conduct, in concert with the Lahore authorities, that there shall be no ground for suspicion in any quarter as to the fairness of the proceeding. The trial is that of a public officer of the Maharajah's, who, on certain conditions, surrendered himself to the Political Agent of the British Government. It is very difficult to devise a mode of trial which is not open to some objection. The justice of the case, however, will require that you, Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence, and Mr. J. Lawrence, should, in the presence of the Durbar and Chiefs assembled for the purpose, state that a flagrant breach of treaty has been committed by the Sheik Imamooddeen, the servant of the Lahore Government, of which the British Government has just reason to complain, and that, as he pleads, in justification of his conduct, the orders he received from his own Government, it will be necessary to proceed in so grave and important an inquiry with all due forms of deliberation. And I need scarcely recommend that the minutes of all the proceedings be recorded with the utmost precision.

In the event of the Sheik succeeding in exonerating himself, by proving that he acted in obedience to the orders of the Vizier, the Rajah's deposition from power, and his immediate exile from the Punjab into the British territories, will be demanded, under such arrangements as may be determined upon, after the whole case has been fully investigated.

In the latter case, it is probable that the interposition of the Ranee in his favour will be attempted, and that Her Highness will not consent to his exile without great reluctance.

Facilities may be afforded, arising out of this state of things, to deprive Her Highness of power. The great scandal which Her Highness' intercourse with the Vizier has caused, has rendered her government as Regent odious to the people; and her deprivation of power would be justified, on the ground that the notoriety of her profligacy has been carried to an extent which disqualifies her for the duty of acting as the Regent of the Lahore State during the minority of her son.

If the British Government should be called upon by the Chiefs to act in behalf of the minor, for the preservation of the Raj, and the maintenance of tranquillity, there can be no doubt that Her Highness must cease to have any authority as Regent, her conduct being so abandoned as to be a serious impediment to the success of any Government.

You will, during the investigation, or as soon as it has closed, forward a letter to the Maharajah, expressing my anxious desire to adhere to the terms of the Treaty, by withdrawing the British force from Lahore within our own territories, according to the arrangement agreed upon in March last, when, at the solicitation of the Regent and the Durbar, a British force was left in the city expressly for the purpose of enabling the Lahore Government to reorganize its army. The desire of the British Government not to interfere in the internal administration of the Sikh State will be repeated; but you will state that the British Government is ready to give the aid of its advice and good offices, for the furtherance of His Highness' interests.

The notice of my intention to take this course has been repeatedly given, in the most decisive terms, as far back as the beginning of September, when declarations were formally made by Mr. J. Lawrence, that the Governor-General would not assent to the British troops remaining in Lahore beyond the period agreed upon, but that I should be ready to pay due attention to any proposal for a modification of the existing arrangement. The Durbar was invited to state its views, and although the sentiments of the most influential members of the Government expressed to the effect that the Government could not stand when the British troops retired, no specific proposal was then made, nor has any been subsequently intimated for my consideration.

The operations against the Sheik have, to a certain degree, interrupted further deliberations on the subject. Ample time has, however, been given to the influential Chiefs, to decide upon the course which they may be of opinion will be most advantageous to the State; and, as they are aware of my determination, you will bring this question to an early decision.

The alternative to which I might be induced to assent, at the solicitation of the Lahore Government, is conveyed in my dispatch to the Secret Committee of the 19th of September.

Whilst you will inform the Durbar that my objections are unalterable to leave a British force at Lahore to support a Native Administration, you will repeat my readiness to listen to any proposals which the Durbar may choose to make. No encouragement will be given to the Chiefs to make proposals which they may imagine the British Government desires to receive.

You will impress upon all, that my sincere desire is to act up to the strict letter of the Treaty and the arrangement agreed upon last March, by withdrawing the troops from Lahore in December. Any proposals which may be made, should be free and voluntary on the part of the Chiefs. It is neither consistent with the dignity nor the policy of the British Government to interfere in any party struggles for power between contending factions in a foreign State. If the British Government can be induced to interfere, by extending the period of protection, it will be for the purpose of preventing anarchy and confusion in a neighbouring State, and, if it be possible, by its friendly aid, of promoting the establishment of a Hindoo Government in the Punjab.

If the Chiefs should deliberately determine to carry on a Native Government, in such case there will be no necessity for any modification of the Treaty, or for taking any steps to assemble the Chiefs. The simple adherence to the Treaty will require no convocation of the Chiefs; but in that case it will remain for consideration, whether a public declaration of the sentiments of the British Government may not be an expedient course.

If, on the other hand, you and Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence should be of opinion, that the majority of the influential Chiefs having an interest in the decision of the question, by the jagheers and estates they hold under the Maharajah, are strongly in favour of the continued occupation of Lahore, and are ready to assent to the sacrifices which such a measure may require, then you will consult with the persons the best informed as to Sikh customs, in what mode the assembly of Chiefs may be convened.

In the state of the Punjab such a proceeding is open to the objection, that the establishment of the precedent may be inconvenient for the future, by exalting the authority of the Chiefs, and depressing the just authority of the Government.

The object to be obtained is to take the best means of ascertaining the sentiments of those who, during the minority of their Prince, have the most legitimate right of deciding such a question; and in attempting to obtain a deliberative Sikh opinion, you will adopt the course which, upon the whole, you consider to be the least objectionable.

If the decision should be made to solicit the British Government to take the Maharajah under its protection during his minority, or for such shorter term as the British Government may at their option choose to fix, the extent of the authority to be exercised by a British Resident must be as unlimited as is the power of a Native Government; and I need not at present attempt to specify the terms.

The Ranee's authority as Regent must be merged in that of the British Minister.

The sum to be paid for the expense of the British troops employed at Lahore must be previously determined. The total charge for 10,000 troops of all arms, will exceed 30 lacs. If 24 lacs were to be paid by monthly payments of 2 lacs, it will be sufficient, considering the exhausted state of the Lahore treasury.

Let the decision of the Sikh Chiefs be what it may, the Governor-General is bound by his duty to the Indian subjects of the British Crown, to maintain order on the frontier, by such means as may best secure that essential object; and without the intention of expressing any threat, you will declare my determination to hold the Lahore State responsible that the public tranquillity shall not be interrupted.

Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

The Governor-General to Maharajah Duleep Sing.

Camp, Hoshiarpore, November 23, 1846.

I HAVE to congratulate Your Highness on the termination of the rebellion in Cashmere.

The troops of the Durbar engaged in the operations for enforcing the fulfilment of the Treaty of Lahore, which were rendered necessary, by the misconduct of certain evil-disposed persons, have conducted themselves in a most praiseworthy manner, and have evinced, by their ready obedience to the orders they received, and by their cheerful endurance of fatigue and unexpected difficulty, the qualities of good soldiers.

The difficulties Your Highness' troops experienced were occasioned by the neglect of the Kardars to provide the requisite carriage and supplies on the line of march.

The conduct of Sirdar Tej Sing, the commander of the Durbar army, and the energy he evinced in pressing forward, while ill-provided with carriage, and short of supplies, was highly creditable to the Sirdar, and such as to deserve Your Highness' entire approbation.

Sirdar Shere Sing, the commander of the column from Rawul Pindee, is described to me as having also conducted himself with much zeal and energy.

It is known to Your Highness, that Sheik Imamooddeen surrendered himself to the Governor-General's Agent, on a promise that his conduct in opposing

the fulfilment of the Treaty between the Lahore and British Governments, in attacking the officers of Maharajah Golab Sing, and killing Vizier Luckput Rae and others, should be fully and impartially inquired into.

The occurrence of this rebellion, and the conduct of the parties concerned in it, are most serious questions. They must receive strict investigation.

I have, therefore, directed the Secretary to Government, Mr. F. Currie, to proceed on a special mission to Lahore, to superintend the institution of an inquiry into the conduct of Sheik Imamooddeen, and a full investigation into the circumstances he may adduce in justification of his acts in Cashmere.

The mode in which this investigation will be conducted, in concert with Your Highness' Durbar, will be communicated to Your Highness' Government by Mr. Currie and Colonel Lawrence, on their arrival at Lahore.

HARDINGE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 8.

The Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General, on a Special Mission to Lahore, to the Governor-General.

My Lord,

Lahore, December 2, 1846.

IN accordance with your instructions, contained in your letter dated 23rd ultimo, I arrived yesterday morning at Lahore. I was met at Bhyrowal by Sirdar Shumshere Sing Sindhanwala, Rae Kishen Chund Vakeel, and a few others of less note, who had been deputed by the Durbar to accompany my camp through the Lahore districts, and provide supplies.

I entered Lahore with the usual ceremonies, having been met some miles from the city by Rajah Lal Sing, Sirdar Tej Sing, and the other Chiefs of the Durbar, accompanied by all the principal Sirdars at the capital, who escorted me to my tents.

I have this morning had an interview with the Maharajah, in public Durbar, when I delivered to His Highness your Lordship's khureeta.

The ceremonies of the Durbar were conducted with great splendour: there were a far more than usual number of Sirdars present; all of any note having hastened to the capital, in consequence of the rumours that have been circulated as to the objects of my mission; most of the officers of the garrison also attended.

Your khureeta was not read; such is not the custom in a public Durbar. I requested Rajah Lal Sing, having heard the khureeta read in the presence of the other Chiefs of the Durbar, to visit me with those Chiefs, and such others as should be indicated by Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence, at 4 o'clock this afternoon, when I would communicate to them the mode in which I propose to carry into effect the orders of your Lordship for the investigation described in your letter.

I have consulted with Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence, C.B., and with Mr. J. Lawrence, upon this subject, and we have determined that it is impossible to associate any of the members of the Durbar with us as judges of the conduct of Sheik Imamooddeen. His plea and grounds of defence are known to all, and they directly implicate the Durbar; the matter at issue being, whether he was, or was not, acting in accordance to their instructions in forcibly opposing the occupation of Cashmere by Maharajah Golab Sing, and in raising the rebellion in that province.

Neither could we associate with us other Chiefs not members of the Durbar. In the first place, this would be calling on the subjects of the Lahore State to sit in judgment on the acts of their Government, and in the next, it would be impossible to find any Chief who is not a friend or enemy of the Vizier, and interested either in his conviction or acquittal.

The only mode of fairly redeeming the promise under which Sheik Imamooddeen surrendered, and of doing impartial justice to all, appears to us to be, that the Sheik's conduct and defence should be investigated by a tribunal of British officers, in the presence of the parties interested in the result of the trial.

I have, therefore, requested General Littler to join us in this inquiry, and to nominate another intelligent officer of high rank, also to act as a member;

and we propose that the Court shall consist of myself as President, Major-General Littler and Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence, Mr. John Lawrence, and Lieutenant-Colonel Goldie, (the officer General Littler seems to desire to name,) as members.

Rajah Lal Sing, with all the officers of the Durbar, and most of the leading and influential Sirdars of the State, will be requested to attend. The investigation will commence at 8 A.M. to-morrow, and I have every reason to hope will close by the afternoon, when the result in full detail will be communicated to you.

In the event of Sheik Imamooddeen establishing his plea, and proving that he did receive the instructions he states, from Rajah Lal Sing, it is our intention to place the Rajah immediately under surveillance in his own house, under charge of Sirdar Tej Sing, the Commander-in-chief, holding the latter responsible for his safe custody, pending your instructions, and intimating to the Durbar, that it is not your intention to visit the offence on the subordinate members of the Government personally, or to allow this treachery of the Minister to his own Sovereign, involving, though it does, an insult to the British Government, to affect the relations which have been entered into with the Maharajah.

It is our intention, in the case above supposed, to prohibit Rajah Lal Sing from returning to the Palace, which we propose to place under charge of Khaleefa Noorooddeen and Sirdar Shere Sing, the brother-in-law to the Maharajah, pending further arrangements and the receipt of your orders.

I have, &c.

F. CURRIE.

No. 9.

The Governor-General to the Secret Committee.

*Camp, Bhyrowal Ghat,
December, 21, 1846. (No. 59.)*

(Extract.)

IN my last dispatch, of the 5th instant, I informed you of the arrangements which had been made at Lahore, for conducting the inquiry into the allegations of Sheik Imamooddeen, relative to his proceedings in Cashmere.

The collection of papers which accompanies this dispatch will bring before you all the circumstances that have since occurred, and will show, that the course contemplated by me, in my communication to you of the 19th of September, in the event of the Lahore Government desiring the continuance of the British troops, has been acted upon.

I have to request your attention to Mr. Currie's letter of the 5th of December, forwarding the minutes of evidence and the abstract of the proceedings taken in the investigation of the Cashmere insurrection.

You will observe that the inquiry was conducted in the most open and public manner. All the leading Chiefs of the most influential families, sixty-five in number, attended to witness the proceedings.

The whole of the first day was occupied in examining the witnesses and documents produced by the Sheik, the assembly adjourning till the following day, to afford time to the Durbar and Rajah Lal Sing to prepare such explanations in defence of their conduct as the evidence adduced by the Sheik might seem to require.

The British officers associated with Mr. Currie, having maturely weighed the evidence brought before them, came unanimously to the decision, that Rajah Lal Sing had secretly encouraged the Sheik to oppose the occupation of Cashmere, in violation of the conditions of the Treaty.

The grounds upon which this opinion was formed are clearly given by Mr. Currie, in an abstract of the proceedings, signed by him and his colleagues, in which the substance of the evidence, after the most careful deliberation, is very ably summed up by that officer.

You will observe that although judicial proof of the authenticity of the signature attached to the letters Nos. 2 and 3 of the minutes of proceedings, could not be adduced, to the satisfaction of the commission, the presumptive proof of

their genuineness was so strong, as to lead to the conviction that they were written by the orders, and did contain the instructions of the Rajah Lal Sing.

The letter addressed to the soldiers, of date the 28th of July, was proved by the Durbar moonshee to have been written by order of the Rajah, and the latter, in his defence, urged that he wrote it at the request of the Sheik's confidential agent at Lahore. The whole of this part of the case is so conclusively recorded in Mr. Currie's abstract of the evidence, that it is quite unnecessary for me to offer any remarks.

This paper was translated and explained by Mr. Currie to the Chiefs, and after a full and careful examination of the evidence, the Sirdars unanimously acquiesced in the decision that the guilt of the Rajah had been proved, and in the propriety of his being forthwith deposed.

This decision of the Sirdars for the removal of Rajah Lal Sing from the Vizierut was immediately acted upon, and the Rajah was, by their orders, escorted by his own guards to his residence in the city.

Every precaution was taken to secure the personal safety of the Rajah, and the tranquillity of the city was in no respect disturbed.

On receiving the minutes and abstract of evidence, I immediately confirmed the proceedings, as you will perceive by my letter of the 7th of December, in which I required the deposition and exile of the Vizier, and declared my willingness to accept that measure as a sufficient atonement for the infraction of the Treaty, giving my reasons for not holding the Lahore State responsible for the misconduct of the Vizier.

In the reply to this letter, the guilt of the Vizier, and the justice of his deposition, are admitted by the members of the Durbar; and they notice in strong terms of gratitude the equity and mercy shown by the British Government in absolving the State from the consequences of the Vizier's crime.

The Rajah has subsequently been sent to Ferozepore, under an escort of British and Sikh troops, and is now on his road to Agra.

In reviewing the form and mode of the investigation, I am not aware that any proceeding better calculated to secure the ends of substantial justice could have been resorted to, in a case in which the British Government had to complain of a violation of treaty by a servant of the Lahore State, the inquiry into which directly implicated the Lahore Government itself. The impartiality of the proceedings has impressed upon the minds of the Sikh Chiefs a very favourable opinion of the equity and fair-dealing of the British character.

Throughout the whole of these proceedings relating to the Cashmere insurrection, I have had great reason to approve of the sound judgment, the clear discernment, and honourable feeling, evinced by Mr. Currie and his colleagues.

In the subsequent transactions to which I am now about to draw your attention, and which refer to the terms on which alone I could consent to the continued occupation of Lahore by a British garrison, you will find that all the anticipations of my confidence in this valuable officer's ability have been realized.

In the same letter (of the 7th of December) in which I confirmed Mr. Currie's proceedings, I instructed him to address the Maharajah, expressing the deep interest I took in His Highness' welfare, and stating that, as the time had nearly arrived when the British troops would, in observance of the Agreement of the 11th March, withdraw from Lahore, I was anxious, after the Vizier's deposition, that the Government should be so reconstructed as to afford the best prospect of preserving the Raj; that I was anxious the British Government should remain on terms of peace and amity with the Government of Lahore; but that I was determined, after the experience of the last nine months, and the recent misconduct of the Vizier, not to leave a British force in the city, beyond the stipulated period, for the sake of supporting a Native Government which can give no assurance of its power to govern justly; as regards its people, and no guarantee for the performance of its obligations to its neighbours.

I stated, that it was the duty of His Highness' Government and the Chiefs, to decide upon the course which they might deem to be most expedient; but that in these arrangements I could exercise no interference, further than in giving to His Highness' Government the aid of my advice and good offices in promoting the interests of the State.

These sentiments were conveyed to His Highness in Mr. Currie's letter of the 9th of December, and the answer is contained in a recapitulation of each paragraph by the Durbar, concluding with the request that I would

leave two regiments of infantry, one regiment of cavalry, and a field-battery, at Lahore, with Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence as the Resident, for some months longer.

Mr. Currie, in his reply to this letter of the Maharajah's, informed His Highness, that the application for the continuance of a British force at Lahore involved a departure from the conditions of the Articles of Agreement concluded on the 11th of March, and stated that it would, therefore, be advisable that the members of the Durbar and the principal Sirdars should assemble, in order that Mr. Currie might declare, in their presence, the only terms on which the Governor-General would consent to a modification of the arrangements, and to the continuance of a British force at Lahore, after the expiration of the stipulated period.

The paper containing these conditions was carefully translated into Persian and Hindoostanee, and delivered by Mr. Currie to the chiefs, when they met on the 15th December. For the purpose of avoiding all misunderstanding, the different articles were explained—the Sirdars retired for consultation, and, after some discussion relating to the amount of the contribution for the expense of the British garrison, the terms were agreed to.

In order to afford full time for further deliberation, it was resolved that the Sirdars and Chiefs should reassemble on the following day, when certain individuals should be selected by themselves to draw up Articles of Agreement, in conjunction with Mr. Currie and Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence. The Chiefs accordingly reassembled at Mr. Currie's Durbar tent, at 3 o'clock of the 16th instant. Each article was discussed separately; the contribution was fixed at twenty-two lacs; and every Sirdar present signed and sealed the paper. All the Chiefs, in number fifty-two, on the conclusion of the meeting expressed their satisfaction that the Maharajah would be under the protection of the British Government during his minority, which will continue until the 4th of September, 1854.

At these meetings the Chiefs unanimously concurred that a State necessity existed for excluding the Maharanee from exercising any authority in the administration of affairs, and the Durbar and the Chiefs have come to the decision that Her Highness shall receive an annuity of one lac and a half.

You will observe, that a British officer appointed by the Governor-General in Council, with an efficient establishment of subordinates, will remain at Lahore, to direct and control every department of the State.

The feelings of the people, and the just rights of all classes, will be respected.

A Council of Regency, composed of leading Chiefs, will act under the control and guidance of the British Resident.

The Council will consist of eight Sirdars, and the members will not be changed without the consent of the British Resident, acting under the orders of the Governor-General.

The power of the Resident extends over every department, and to any extent.

A military force may be placed in such forts and posts, and of such strength, within the Lahore territories, as the Governor-General may determine.

These terms give the British Resident unlimited authority in all matters of internal administration, and external relations, during the Maharajah's minority.

The concession of these powers will enable the British Government to secure the peace and good order of the country—the authority will be exercised for the most beneficial purposes: these terms are more extensive than have been heretofore required, when Native States have received the protection of a British contingent force. My motive in requiring such large powers has arisen from the experience of its necessity during the last nine months; and my reluctance, on general principles, to revert to the subsidiary system of using British troops to support a Native Government, while we have no means of correcting the abuses of the civil administration of a country ostensibly under British protection. A British force, acting as the instrument of a corrupt Native Agency, is a system leading to mischievous consequences, and which ought, when it is possible, to be avoided.

The occupation of Lahore will afford the means of counteracting much of

the disorder and anarchy which have disturbed the Punjab for the last five years, chiefly owing to a numerous Sikh army, kept up in the vicinity of the capital, in numbers greatly disproportioned to the revenues of the country, and by whose republican system of discipline, the soldiery had usurped all the functions of the State.

The control which a British garrison can exercise in enforcing order amongst the disbanded soldiery, will, in conjunction with a British system of administration, protect all classes of the community. The immediate effect of depriving a numerous body of military adventurers of employment (there being still many to be disbanded to reduce the numbers to the limits of the Treaty of Lahore,) may be troublesome, and a source of some uneasiness. No policy can at once get rid of an evil which has been the growth of years. But the operation of a system of order introduced into the Punjab, will subdue the habits of this class, as has been the case in our own provinces since the Pindarree war, and, by gradually mitigating the turbulent spirit of the Sikh population, encourage the people to cultivate the arts of industry and peace.

A strict adherence to the letter of the Treaty, by the withdrawal of the British garrison at this moment from the Punjab, after the avowals made by the Durbar, that the Government could not stand, would probably have led to measures of aggrandizement, and the extension of our territory, after scenes of confusion and anarchy. This danger was felt by the most able of the Sirdars, and it reconciled them to the sacrifices which the terms inevitably required for the interest of the Lahore State. By the course which has been adopted, the modification of the terms of the Agreement of last March, has been made with the free consent of the Sirdars, publicly assembled, who were made fully aware of the extent of the power which, by the new articles, was to be transferred to the British Government.

The confidence which the Sikh Chiefs have reposed in British good faith, must tend, by the unanimity of their decision, which partakes, as far as it is possible in an eastern country, of a national sanction, to promote the success of this measure.

I have deemed it expedient, that the ratification of the new terms of Agreement entered into for protecting the Maharajah during his minority, should be made as public as possible. It has, therefore, been determined, in communication with the Sirdars, that His Highness shall come to my camp on this side of the Beas on the 26th instant; and I propose afterwards, when the Agreement will be formally ratified, to pay His Highness a friendly return visit at Lahore.

I have invited his Excellency the Commander-in-chief to meet His Highness here on the 26th.

It is my intention to appoint Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence to be the British Resident at Lahore, with an Assistant Political Agent at Peshawur. I have during the past year had frequent occasion to mention this officer's name in terms of praise; he had conciliated the confidence of the Sirdars and Sikh soldiery, by his energy, frankness, and integrity; and I trust that the state of his health will enable him to continue to perform his useful and arduous duties.

On this occasion I feel it to be my public duty to record the high estimation in which I hold the services rendered to the East India Company by Mr. F. Currie, Secretary to the Government of India. I have repeatedly noticed, during the past year, the varied instances in which this most valuable officer has distinguished himself, by his sound judgment, foresight, firmness, and general ability. The papers herewith annexed, afford ample proof of his skilful qualifications to conduct important negotiations; and I again beg leave to recommend that this able officer may receive some public mark of the approbation of the Home Authorities.

The last account from Cashmere from Lieutenant Nicholson is very satisfactory.

In every part of India the most perfect tranquillity prevails.

No efforts on my part will be omitted to preserve this desirable state of things. My views and measures have been uniformly directed to maintain a system of peace, by consolidating the British power in India, and not by objects of aggrandizement, and I trust that the arrangements now about to be ratified will tend to this effect, and that the course which I have adopted will be found by you to be consistent with true policy, and conducive to the interests of British India.

Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

F. Currie, Esq., to the Governor-General.

My Lord.

Lahore, December 5, 1846.

IN continuation of my letter to your Lordship of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that, on the afternoon of that day, the members of the Durbar, with the more influential Chiefs, came to my Durbar tent, when I requested Khaleefa Noorooddeen to read aloud to them your Lordship's Khareeta, and then explained to them the mode we proposed to adopt for conducting the investigation into the truth, or otherwise, of the statements made by the Sheik Imamooddeen.

The Chiefs unanimously assented to the propriety of the measure, and declared that no other mode of investigation would be so satisfactory to themselves.

They all expressed their desire to be present, and it was arranged that the investigation should commence at 8 o'clock the following morning.

Accordingly, soon after 8 o'clock, on the morning of the 3rd, the Sheik having come from his camp at Shahderrah, and the Chiefs being assembled, the proceedings were commenced.

The court, if I may so call it, was composed of myself, as President, Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence, C.B., Major-General Sir John Littler, K.O.B., John Lawrence, Esq., and Lieutenant-Colonel Goldie, 12th Native Infantry, as members; and the proceedings were taken down for record in English by Captains Broome and Edwards and Ensign Hodgson, and in Persian by the Meer Mobinshee of my office, an officer of the Agency, and one attached to the establishment of Mr. John Lawrence. The proceedings were also taken down in Persian by Dewan Deena Nath and Vakeel Rae Kishen Chund, on the part of the Durbar.

The court was crowded with Chiefs; a list of those present is given with the detailed record of proceedings. Your Lordship will see that there were sixty-five principal persons, exclusive of followers and vakeels.

I was never present in a more orderly or attentive assembly.

The examination of the evidence adduced by Sheik Imamooddeen in support of his statements occupied the first day till 3 in the afternoon. We thought it better to close the proceedings for that day, and give the Durbar time and opportunity to prepare their defence. The court, therefore, adjourned till 8 o'clock yesterday.

On its reassembly, all were again present, and several military officers also—a few only attended on the former day, not knowing that they would be permitted to do so.

The defence was then entered on by the Durbar, and occupied no less than two hours.

The proceedings in detail are inclosed for your Lordship's information.

A separate paper, drawn up by me, being an abstract of the proceedings, with our opinions on the evidence, and our unanimous decision as to the guilt of Rajah Lal Sing, also accompanies this letter. This paper is signed by all the members of the Commission.

It did not appear to me expedient that our decision should be proclaimed in that crowded and mixed assembly; I, therefore, proposed that the members of the Durbar, excepting Rajah Lal Sing, with the more influential Chiefs, being the heads and representatives of the principal families, should adjourn with us to my own tent. A list of these parties, twenty-two in number, will be found with the proceedings.

I went through the whole of the evidence, carefully and deliberately, to this assembly, and explained to them our decision, and the circumstances on which it was grounded.

I then, at once, explained that your Lordship had directed me, if Sheik Imamooddeen established his assertions, to state that it was not your intention, in consideration of the circumstances mentioned in your letter of instructions, to consider the misconduct of the Vizier as a violation of the Treaty, and as involving a termination of the relations which had been established between the two Governments, provided the other members of the Durbar and the chiefs disclaimed participation in the offence; but I stated that your Lordship did, in

the event of the Rajah's conviction, demand his being forthwith deposed by the Maharajah from his office of Vizier, and held under surveillance pending your Lordship's further orders, as it was manifestly impossible that the Government of the Maharajah could be carried on with any prospect of success by one who had proved so faithless to His Highness' interests, or that the British Government could continue to act in concert with one who had so grievously offended against them.

All were unanimous in determining his immediate deposition from the Vizierut, in expressions of approbation of your Lordship's justice and gratitude for the consideration and kindness of the British Government.

It was then agreed by the Sirdars that Rajah Lal Sing should be detained in the Durbar tent till his followers were removed from the Fort and Palace, which were to be placed under the charge of Sirdar Tej Sing, Dewan Deena Nath, and Sirdar Shere Sing, the brother-in-law of the Maharajah. On the relief of the Rajah's guards from the Palace, and the substitution of troops under Tej Sing, it was determined that Rajah Lal Sing should be escorted by a company of the State troops (Tej Sing's) to his own house in the town, without returning to the Palace.

All this was effected without the slightest trouble or disturbance of any kind. Colonel Lawrence accompanied Sirdar Tej Sing with Dewan Deena Nath and Sirdar Shere Sing to the Palace; and Lieutenant Edwards, at the request of Sirdar Tej Sing, accompanied Rajah Lal Sing to his own house in the town.

Rajah Lal Sing is now under surveillance of Sikh troops, at his own house, awaiting, by the Chiefs' desire, your Lordship's orders as to his future disposal.

The government is to be carried on by a Commission composed of Sirdar Tej Sing, Dewan Deena Nath, Sirdar Shere Sing, and Khaleeta Nooroddin, till some further arrangement is made. The seal of the Maharajah has been for the present deposited, at the joint request of those persons, with Colonel Lawrence.

Everything is to-day as quiet in the town as if nothing of interest to the people had happened, and the deposition of the Vizier is said to have given universal satisfaction.

The necessary proclamations to the provincial governors and district officers were issued before the Sirdars left my tent yesterday afternoon.

I have, &c.

F. CURRIE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

Minutes of a Court of Inquiry assembled at Lahore on the 3rd of December, 1846.

PRESIDENT:

Frederick Currie, Esquire, Secretary to Government.

MEMBERS.

Major-General Sir J. H. Littler, K.C.B.

Lieut.-Colonel H. M. Lawrence, C.B., Agent to the Governor-General.

John Lawrence, Esquire, C.S.

Lieut.-Colonel Goldie, 12th Native Infantry.

AT 9 o'clock Ameer Rajah Lal Sing, Sirdar Tej Sing, Sirdar Shere Sing Atareewala, Sirdar Runjore Sing Majeethia, Bhaee Nidham Sing, nephew of the late Bhaee Ram Sing, Bhaee Purohun Sing, Sirdar Utter Sing Kalewala, Sirdar Sopltan Mahomed Khan, Sirdar Khwajah Mahomed Khan (son of Sirdar Sooltan Mahomed Khan), Sirdar Shumsher Sing Sindhanwala, Sirdar Koher Sing Sindhanwala (son of Sirdar Uttur Sing), Sirdar Runjore Sing Sindhanwala (son of Sirdar Bussawa Sing), Sirdar Khan Sing Atareewala (son of Sirdar Shum Sing), Sirdar Khan Sing Majeethia, Sirdar Lal Sing Morareea, Sirdar Urjun Sing Rhunghur Nunguleea, Sirdar Rum Sing Jhillawaleea, Baba Mean Sing, Sirdar Uttur Sing (brother of the Slave girl), Sirdar Jowahir Sing (son of Sirdar Hurree Sing), Sirdar Chunda Sing Kulalwala, Sirdar Partab Sing Mahass.

On the part of Sheik Imamooddeen—Sheik Imamooddeen, Kurram Buksh, Scindeh Khan Nooralabee, Gholam Rusool, Lala Mitha Mull, Sheik Sahibooddeen, Nizamooddeen Khitnudgar, Lala Poorun Chund, with Bholanath, Wuzeer Sing, Dewan Dutto Mull, Kunhya Lal, Jan Mahomed, Sudeek Khan, Colonel Summoond Khan, Colonel Bussunt Sing, Mirza Ahmed Beg, Kanh Sing, Jaffer Ali Khan, Lala Ruttun Chund, and Goordut Sing, officers of the Cashmerean Army.

On the part of Maharajah Duleep Sing—Nihal Sing Chachee, Shumsooddeen Khan, Sham Sing Dhunourawala, Jowahir Sing Bustenee, Bhaee Ameer Buksh Dhunourawala, Mulik Fattah Khan Towana, Isseeree Sing Soodh, Chunda Sing Zurgur, Bholi Sing Orderly, Sowana Sing (son of Bhaee Mah Sing), Mulik Sher Mahomed (son of Kadir Buksh), Ramjee Mull Commandant, Bal Sing Major, Sadho Sing, Sodhee Huzoor Sing, Sodhee Narain Sing;

With the following Officers of the Durbar and Departments :

Dewan Deena Nath, Faqueer Noorooddeen, Bukshee Bhuggut Ram, Rae Kishen Chund, Rae Bhag Sing, Lala Ruttun Chund Doogul, Lala Ruttun Chund (of the long beard), Dewan Hakim Rae, Dewan Jowahir Mull, Misr Sahib Dyal, Kadar Nath (brother of Dewan Deena Nath), Bhag Mull, Nundgopal (brother of Lala Ruttun Chund), Mutruddee Mull (brother of Dewan Hakim Rae) Boota Sing, Lala Hem Rae (son of Kanh Chund), Jye Kishen Moonshee.

Motmids (confidants) of the following Chiefs and Sirdars: Mool Sing, of Sirdar Tej Sing; Mukhun Mull, of Misr Bhugwan Sing; Kazee, of Sirdar Sooltan Mahomed Khan; Jowahir Sing, of Sirdar Runjore Sing Majeethia; Gainda Sing, of Sirdar Shumshere Sing Sindhanwala; Heera Nund, of Sirdar Shere Sing Atareewala; Lala Munglee Lal, of Rae Kishen Chund; Narain Sing, of Sirdar Sham Sing Atareewala; Jowalanath Mootsuddie, of General Courtlandt; Gholam Moheecooddeen, of Sirdar Kehur Sing; Kunhya Lal, of Rajah Maun; Asanund, of Sirdar Runjore Sing Sindhanwala.

Officers of Maharajah Duleep Sing:—

General Golab Sing Povindea.

General Courtlandt.

Colonel Courtlandt.

General Golab Sing Bhagoowala.

Agents on the part of the British—

Lala Hursurun Das.

Moonshee Bukshee Ram.

Assembled in Mr. Currie's Durbar tent.

Mr. Currie opened the proceedings, by informing the Sirdars present, that an inquiry would now take place into the causes of the late Cashmere rebellion, which had so nearly threatened to infringe the Treaty between the Lahore and British Governments.

He then turned to Sheik Imamooddeen, and said, that as he had come in, and submitted to the British authorities, on a promise that his conduct should be fully inquired into, and the causes of the rebellion be brought to light, this Court was now assembled for that purpose, and the opportunity was offered him of vindicating his conduct, and explaining fully the cause and origin of the late rebellion.

Sheik Imamooddeen being thus called upon, stated:—

"Poorun Chund, my vakeel, wrote twice to me from Lahore, to say, that if through my means Cashmere should still remain with the Lahore Durbar, and did not pass into the possession of Maharajah Golab Sing, it would be well for me. I said, that unless I received a written document to this effect, I could take no steps in the matter; it was not sufficient for Poorun Chund to write; Rajah Lal Sing or the Durbar must write. Accordingly, I did receive written orders, through Poorun Chund, and I have since given in the originals to Colonel Lawrence, Agent to the Governor-General.

"Upon the arrival of the perwanna from the Durbar of Lahore, I showed it to my officers, and by their advice fired a salute in honour of it.

"I received the letters I speak of about the beginning of the Bhadoon (it might be the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd of the month, but the exact date I cannot state), a few days only (ten or twelve) before the fight took place."

These papers are produced by Lieutenant Edwardes, who received them at Thanab, from Colonel Lawrence; and they are identified by Sheik Imamooddeen, as those he gave up to Colonel Lawrence, and which he received originally from Lahore.

No. 1.—Translation of a perwanna from the Lahore Government to the officers and soldiers under the command of Sheik Imamooddeen.

"By the grace of God."

Signature
of Rajah
Lal Sing.

To the officers, and sepoys, and non-commissioned officers, under the command of the Governor Sheik Imamooddeen Khan Behadoor in Cashmere.

Seal of
Maharajah
Duleep Sing.

This order is now sent to you, and after receiving it, you will remain with the Governor Sheik Imamooddeen Khan Behadoor, doing the work of the State; and whenever he returns to the presence, you shall be kept on in the service as before. Have no fear, therefore, but remain with the person in question. This is an imperative order. Consider your welfare as my care.

Dated 15th of Sawun, 1903
(or 28th of July, 1846).

[N.B.—The original MS. is in the handwriting of Moonshee Ruttun Chund of the long beard. The last sentence "consider, &c.," and the date, are in a different hand.]

No. 2.—Translation of an Ikramanah, or deed of promise, accompanying Letter No. 1.

"By the grace of God."

Signature
of Rajah
Lal Sing.

I hereby promise that if my friend Sheik Imamooddeen Khan Behadoor, with good-will and fidelity to his proper masters, duly performs the task imposed upon him in a separate letter, my whole interest shall be exerted to secure him from being called to account by the British Government. Whatever allowance either he, or his jagheerdaree horsemen, or the Sheik, his late father, received from the Lahore Government, the same jagheers, and something added to them, as a reward for service, shall be assigned him in the Lahore territory. By the grace of God I will not fail to fulfil this that I have written.

Dated, Lahore; 12th Sawun, 1903,
(or 25th of July, 1846.)

[N.B.—The original MS. is in the handwriting of Lala Poorun Chund.]

No. 3.—Translation of a letter from Rajah Lal Sing to Sheik Imamooddeen.

DOUBTLESS you will have perused the contents of my former letter. My friend, you are not ignorant of the ingratitude and want of faith which Rajah Golab Sing has exhibited towards the Lahore Sirkar. It is indeed sufficiently glaring. I now write, therefore, to request, my friend, that you will not set before your eyes the example of your late father's former intercourse with the aforesaid Rajah, but consider both your duty and your interest to lie this way, and inflict such injury and chastisement upon the said Rajah, that he shall have reason to remember it. It is to be hoped that if the Rajah makes but one false step, he will never be able to re-establish himself again. For your security and confidence, my friend, I have sent you a separate written guarantee, that you may have no misgivings as to the consequences. Let me hear often of your welfare.

P.S.—Tear up this paper when you have read it.
Dated 13th Sawun.

[N.B.—The original MS. is in the handwriting of Lala Poorun Chund. The envelope in which the letter is inclosed is separate and separate from that again is a slide of paper which closes the envelope, and on this latter is, on one side, part of the direction to Sheik Imamooddeen, and on the other, the sign manual of Rajah Lal Sing.]

Examination of Sheik Imamooddeen resumed.

Question. (To Sheik Imamooddeen.) What did you understand to be the meaning of this perwanna?

Answer. I considered that this paper was to assure the soldiers that they were to obey all my orders in an affair, the nature of which was explained more fully to me in a separate paper (No. 3).

Q. That separate paper—is it this now before me, marked No. 3?

A. Yes, that is it.

Q. Who do you suppose the writer of No. 3?

A. Poorun Chund.

Q. Did it accompany No. 1, or come subsequently?

A. It came along with it.

(The paper is read in the Court; see the translation above.)

No. 2 is then shown to the Sheik, and he is asked if this is the ikrarnameh spoken of in No. 3?

A. Yes, it is.

Q. Did all these three papers come together?

A. They were all brought by one hurkaru, and came on the same day.

(The paper No. 2 is then read in the Court; see the translation above.)

Q. (To Rae Kishen Chund, who read the paper.) Is there any signature to it?

A. (By Rae Kishen Chund.) Yes, one such as the Rajah generally uses.

Q. (To the Sheik.) Whose handwriting is the paper in?

A. Poorun Chund's.

Q. Did you show all the three papers to the officers and soldiers, or only one?

A. Only the perwanna, as the other two did not concern them.

Q. Why did you not show the other two to them?

A. It was a thing to be concealed, not to be published.

Q. If you did not show those papers to the officers and soldiers, what did they fire a salute for?

A. Because they were made soldiers of the State, and were promised pay by the Sirkar.

Q. In what position, then, were they before?

A. Since the month of Phagoon, when the Treaty made over Cashmere to the Maharajah Golab Sing, they were out of public employ. When this

paper came, they thought they were continued on in the public service, and they fired a salute for joy.

Q. Were there any other papers of a similar nature addressed to the army by the Durbar?

A. No.

Q. Were there any others sent to you yourself?

A. Yes; one by the hand of Hakim Rae, and one by the hand of Colonel Uttur Sing Man; both were dispatched from Lahore before the fight, but reached me after it.

Q. What was the purport of them?

A. It was different. I have sent for them, and you shall see them.

Q. Besides these three papers now in Court, and the two others you speak of, by Hakim Rae and Uttur Sing, did you receive any verbal message by special messenger from the Durbar, instigating you to create disturbance in Cashmere?

A. None.

Q. Had you any doubt as to the authenticity of these papers?

A. None. My own vakeel forwarded them, and wrote to the same effect. He had always served me faithfully in private matters.

Q. Did it never occur to you that the perwanna might have been forged?

A. If Poorun Chund had ever forged before, I should have had reason to doubt; but he had never done so, and why should I doubt him?

Q. You say you were satisfied as to the handwriting of the body of the letter being that of Poorun Chund; but were you equally satisfied that the signature was that of the Rajah?

A. Yes; I saw no reason to doubt it; and I was also well acquainted with the handwriting of Ruttun Chund in No. 1, for before now I had disbursed thousands of rupees upon his written orders.

Q. Since the fight and your departure from Cashmere, have you received any other letters or messages from the Durbar?

A. Complimentary inquiries after my health—nothing more.

Q. Why did you not obey Colonel Lawrence's orders to leave Cashmere?

A. On account of these orders I had from Lahore, and the fidelity I owed that State.

Q. How many perwannas did you receive from Colonel Lawrence?

A. Three originals, and two copies—four before and one after the fight.

Q. Then, did you consider the meaning of those orders from Lahore, to be, that you were to follow them, in spite of any contrary ones from the British?

A. I was the servant of the Lahore State, and thought myself bound to obey its orders.

Q. Have you had any communication with the Rajah since you left Cashmere?

A. Many persons have gone between us, with general expressions of kindness and consideration, telling me that if this matter could be made up, and these papers be kept back from the British gentlemen, kindness would be shown me in passing my accounts.

(The Durbar and Sirdars are asked if they have any questions to put to the Sheik.)

Dewan Deena Nath asks one question.

Q. How came the Sheik to trust orders in Poorun Chund's handwriting, when public perwannas are always written by Ruttun Chund, especially in so important a matter?

A. Many other undoubted communications from the Durbar had come to me before in Poorun Chund's handwriting; and why should I doubt this one in particular, which was not on a matter that could be entrusted to the public writer of the Durbar?

Q. By Deena Nath.—Can you produce any of those other papers which you say came to you in Poorun Chund's handwriting?

A. I have none here now; but I gave two at Thanah to Colonel Lawrence, for the purpose of comparison.

Q. Have you preserved any of those letters which Poorun Chund wrote to you on this same subject of the rebellion?

A. No; I destroyed them.

Ruttun Chund, of the long beard, was then called and examined.

Q. Is this perwanna No. 1 in your handwriting?

A. The body of the paper is in my hand, but the date is by another—the cause of which I will now explain. I am the person who is in the habit of writing the State papers, as was my father before me for many years. I was called to write a tusulleenamah to the troops in Cashmere. Rajah Lal Sing and Poorun Chund were sitting and conversing side by side. The nature of their conversation I do not know. The Rajah said to me, "Write a tusulleenamah to the troops in Cashmere." I wrote the paper now before the Court. I have been in the habit of writing such papers. Having written the tusulleenamah, I was called on to read some letters of intelligence to the Rajah, and I put the perwanna into Poorun Chund's hands and said, "Put the date to this."

Q. Do you think the date put to it is correct?

A. I have no reason to doubt it. I know it was about that time.

Q. Are you in the habit of writing all the State perwannas, or are others employed also?

A. I am; those relating to Mooltan, Peshawur, and Cashmere, are usually written by me.

Q. Were any other perwannas written by you at any time to the same parties in Cashmere?

A. Before this I may have written some. Indeed I did write some, telling them to come away; for I was in the habit of answering the urzees from the officers in Cashmere; but since the date of this perwanna, I have not written any.

Q. This is a letter of encouragement. Does it relate to any instructions given in any other paper?

A. None that I know of. A perwanna is written on the instant when ordered. It is not usual for copies of perwannas to be kept, except when on important matters.

Q. Is this signature on the perwanna the Rajah's? and this seal the Maharajah's?

A. Yes, that is Lal Sing's signature. It was signed in my presence. That is also the Maharajah's seal. It was affixed by Bukshee Mohur Sing.

Q. Is it usual for all orders and communications between the Rajah and Chiefs to be written by the official secretaries?

A. It is more usual, but not invariably so. Anybody ordered can write, i. e. any one trusted who is about the Durbar.

Q. In the event of making a confidential communication to any chief, or person of importance, is the motmid of that party so addressed ever in the habit of writing that letter in which the signature of the Durbar is placed?

A. There is no objection to this course, which is not an unusual one where the parties have confidence in each other.

Q. You say Rajah Lal Sing and Poorun Chund were sitting talking together, on what subject you know not. Did Poorun Chund at that time write any paper in your presence on which the Rajah put his signature?

A. Not that I saw.

Q. Was Poorun Chund ever in the habit, to your knowledge, of writing papers on any subject, to Sheik Imamooddeen, by the instructions of the Rajah?

A. This is a thing known not only to me but to everybody, that he was in the habit of doing so. Poorun Chund was constantly present with the Rajah—he was a man trusted; and it is by no means unusual for motmids to write to their principal by the instructions of the Rajah. Poorun Chund is my equal.

Q. What do you take to be the meaning of this perwanna?

A. I don't know. I was told to write a tusulleenamah to the troops, telling them that they were the servants of the Sirkar, and were to be obedient to the Sheik, without fear of consequences. It is not for servants to ask the meaning of their masters. They write what they are told.

Q. Do you know the signature of the Rajah? Look at these on the other papers (outside of 2 and inside of 3) and say if you think they are the Rajah's.

A. They are his style: they have the appearance of being his. I see no difference.

The Sheik is asked if he has any question to put?

A. None.

The Durbar are asked if they have any inquiries to make ?

A. None.

Lala Poorun Chund, Vakeel of Sheik Imamooddeen, is called in and examined.

Q. Is this paper, No. 3, in your handwriting ?

A. Yes it is.

Q. Under what circumstances was it written ?

A. By the Rajah's order.

Q. You are the Sheik's motmid with the Durbar. State what was the cause of this letter being written.

A. I had previously written, by the Rajah's orders, some letters to the Sheik, to the same effect, viz., that he was to oppose the Maharajah Golab Sing's getting possession of Cashmere, and if he created disturbance there, to secure this object, his doing so would be considered good service. Some of these letters were lost; one or two arrived; in reply to which the Sheik answered, that in a case of this sort he could not act on my writing. For his own assurance, he must have a written order from the Rajah, and that it would be advisable to have a tusulleenah, for the troops to set their minds at rest.

Q. Were any other papers sent along with the letter written by yourself ?

A. The three papers now on the table went by one hurkaru.

Q. Is the signature on the envelope of 3 the Rajah's ?

A. It is certainly the Rajah's.

Q. Was it placed on the cover in your presence ?

A. I wrote the letter before the Rajah, and gave it to him. He signed it in my presence, and returned it to me.

Q. Was the signature to No. 2 affixed in your presence ?

A. It was.

Q. There is a difference of one day in the dates of these two papers written by you. How is this ?

A. The ikrarnah was written by the Rajah's order one day, and it was intended that another should be written to go along with it. But some other important business called the Rajah, which prevented him. Next day, by the Rajah's instructions, the letter was written, and signed by him in my presence; the three papers were dispatched altogether some two or three days after the writing.

Q. Was the tusulleenah to the soldiers written in your presence, and how comes the date of that to differ from that of the others ?

A. After the letter was written, and before it was dispatched, I received the perwanna above referred to from the Sheik, saying it would be necessary to have a tusulleenah for the troops. I represented this to the Rajah, when he ordered Ruttun Chund to write one before me, and then the three papers were sent off together.

Q. In other matters, previous to this, had you been in the habit of writing letters on the Rajah's part to the Sheik ?

A. Often; always. A few may have been written by other Moonshes, but, in general, all communications from the Rajah to the Sheik were written by me.

Q. Have you still got that perwanna from the Sheik asking for a tusulleenah for the troops ?

A. No. Most of the Sheik's perwannas were destroyed in the Rajah's presence; others were destroyed afterwards by myself.

Q. You, who were the medium of correspondence between the Rajah and the Sheik, what did you understand to be the Rajah's object ?

A. I cannot tell what was in his heart, of course; but I believe it to have been the enmity which has so long existed between the Rajah and Golab Sing. He wished to create disturbances that might prevent Golab Sing from getting possession of the province. He never promised, through me, that the province should be given to the Sheik, either to be his own, or to hold for the Lahore Government.

Q. At whose instigation was there an agent sent by the Sheik to Simla ?

A. I don't know; he was sent from Cashmere, not from Lahore.

Q. How long have you been the Sheik's motmid ?

A. Ever since his father went to Cashmere, six or seven years ago.

Dewan Hakim Rae is called in and examined.

Q. You were sent from here on the part of the Durbar; had the fight occurred at that time or not?

A. I will state the circumstances at full. I was one day sent for by the Rajah. I asked what he wanted me for; he said, to bring the Sheik, and to settle the accounts in Cashmere, and if there was any difficulty, to write word to him. This was towards the end of the month of Sawun; only a few days left of the month. I replied, that this was a very important business, and a difficult one; that the interests of Golab Sing and the British Government were concerned in it; and I begged to be excused. The Rajah said, "No, you must go." I at last agreed. Two days afterwards, he again said, "Make ready, you must be gone." I said, "What are my orders?" He took me aside, and said, "The Sheik has already got his orders, you go and aid and advise him." I immediately said, (and asked the Dewan to back my petition,) "Let me not be employed in this matter; it touches the British Government, and I am afraid for myself."

I implored Dewan Deena Nath to get the Rajah to let me off, but the Rajah said I must go. I then applied to Sirdar Tej Sing to get me off, but without success. Bukshee Bhugut Ram is my witness. I said, "My honour and my worldly interest will all be ruined." Tej Sing said, "It can't be helped; you must go."

I then went to Jowahir Mull, and said that I would rather give up all my jagheers, and even fly the country, than go on such an expedition. Jowahir Mull said, "Go, it is your fate, and fate must be obeyed."

Faqueer Noorooddeen then took me to Major Macgregor and said, "Here is the Dewan ready to go; please to send a motmid on your part along with him." Sohun Lal was then sent to Major Macgregor for the purpose of preventing Golab Sing from offering any hindrance to the Sheik's departure. I made many excuses to Major Macgregor, and said "The country is inundated." He said, "Never mind, you must go."

I then explained to the Rajah that I had to make over an important office. He said, "Never mind that, you must set off." I then went.

We set out, and crossed the river at Shahderrah, where Sohun Lal said, "We are to go by Jummoo." I wrote, and told the Rajah; and said to Sohun Lal, "Very well; you go the regular marches, and I will go on a-head to Sealkote, which is my home." This I mentioned in my letter to the Rajah, whose answers I produce (Nos. 4 and 5), to the effect that I was not to go by way of Jummoo, but by Bhimber, Nowshera, and Rajourie. These letters reached me at Sealkote. (See appended translations in full.) In eighteen days I reached Rajourie, and halted one day. The night of the halt news came of the fight in Cashmere. I was then afraid to go on, and wrote to the Sheik, to tell him of my being at Rajourie. When I got his answer I set out, and reached Cashmere in about seven or eight days. When I got there, I took him aside and showed him the orders of the Durbar (contained in a perwanna produced in Court). He professed obedience. The perwanna is written by Dewan Deena Nath.

Q. There is nothing improper in this perwanna; why did you raise so many objections to go with it to Cashmere?

A. It was not that order that alarmed me. It was the private verbal orders from the Rajah, which I have already mentioned, to go and aid and assist the Sheik; and these orders were in direct opposition to the perwanna. This perwanna was the open order of the Durbar, the other was the secret one, which endangered my jagheers and my life. The Durbar gave me presents of shawls, &c., at departure, worth 2,500 rupees, and should I not have been glad to go, if I had not known it was a dangerous mission?

Q. When you arrived at Cashmere, did you abide by the public, or the private orders of the Durbar?

A. Put the Sheik on his oath, and ask him if I did more than give him the perwanna, which he agreed to obey, and, in fact, he did; for he suspended operations, and said he only delayed leaving Cashmere till he got a tusulle-nameh. The Sheik proposed to me to ask Rutnoo to come out of the Hurree Purbat. I refused; so did Sohun Lal. Guneshee Sing, and Kashee Nath, and Sohun Lal, did go to the fort, and tell the garrison the Sheik's proposal, but

they advised them not to agree to it. After eight or ten days hostilities were renewed in this way. The Sheik had taken advantage of the truce to push on his approaches and sap, which they perceiving, threw out a breastwork and countersap, and firing recommenced. Before this 100 prisoners were released by the Sheik, at my intercession.

Q. Do you mean, on the whole, to say, that you so far obeyed both your orders as to delay on the road ; but when you got there you gave good advice ?

A. I mean to say that I had two orders, one secret and verbal from the Rajah, the other open, from the Durbar. On the road to Rajourie I obeyed the first, by delaying on the march ; but when I got to Cashmere, I acted on the written instructions, and did my best to stop the rebellion, and persuade the Sheik to come away. (Rajah Lal Sing was here asked if the signatures on the three papers are his.)

He acknowledges that on No. 1, denies those on 2 and 3.

Q. (to Hakim Rae.) When you got to Cashmere, did you ask the Sheik if the fight had taken place by the orders of the Rajah or without his orders ?

A. I did ask him, and the Sheik laughed. I said, "What is the use of making a secret of it ?" He replied, "I may have got orders, but I will not show them, because it would be unfaithful to the Durbar, and might be injurious to the Lahore State."

The Rajah Lal Sing denying the authenticity of two of the signatures purporting to be his, Lala Poorun Chund, in whose handwriting the papers are, is called on to prove the verity of the signatures.

Poorun Chund suggests that a number of undoubted signatures of the Rajah should be collected, and compared with the two in question.

A long discussion with Dewan Deena Nath, and others, as to the best means of investigating the authenticity.

Rajah Lal Sing is called on to explain the reason of his writing the *tusullee-nameh* to the troops.

He states, that Poorun Chund informed him that the troops were out of heart ; and though the Sheik was willing to come away, yet he could not come by himself, and the troops would not come away with him, unless they were assured of their pay from the Lahore Durbar.

Q. When you found that on receipt of this perwanna, ordering the troops to obey the Sheik, they did obey him in opposing Maharajah Golab Sing, did you write another perwanna explaining to them that the meaning of the former one was not that they were to oppose Golab Sing, but to come away with the Sheik from Cashmere ?

A. No, I did not.

Question to the Durbar. Do you wish to have time to make a written defence, or reply to what has been said ?

Answer by Deena Nath. No ; it is in your hands—act as you think right.

Rajah Lal Sing is asked if he would not like to wait till to-morrow, to make his reply to the charge of having signed and sent these papers, or to produce evidence to rebut that brought forward on the other side ?

The Rajah gave no answer ; but the Court decided that it was right to give him till to-morrow for reflection, and making out his defence.

This being communicated to him, he observed, that nothing was easier than to forge any man's signature.

The Court was adjourned at half-past 2 P.M. till 8 A.M. to-morrow.

At 9 o'clock A.M., 4th December, 1846, the Rajah, Sirdars, Sheik Imam-ooddeen, and his officers, being assembled, the Court resumed its sitting.

Ruttun Chund, of the long beard, is again called in, and asked

Q. Was there any one else present on the occasion when you wrote the perwanna, besides Rajah Lal Sing and Poorun Chund ?

A. At some distance were some of the Rajah's attendants, &c. &c.

Q. Was there any other Chief of the Durbar present ?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever communicate the order to any of the other Chiefs of the Durbar ?

A. No.

Q. As far as you are acquainted with the facts, was anybody else aware of that perwanna having been written ?

A. If any other of the Ministers gives an order, we report it to the Rajah, of course ; but if the Rajah gives an order, he is master, and there is no necessity for informing anybody.

Rajah Lal Sing is called on for his reply.

Dewan Deena Nath reads a paper.

The contents may be summed up in a few words, under the following heads :—

1st. That forgeries are very common, and have caused great trouble in the Punjab ; therefore it is not unlikely that the documents now produced are false.

2ndly. That it is incredible that the Rajah, after signing and agreeing to the Treaty between the two Governments made at Lahore last year, should do anything in contravention of its terms.

3rdly. That it is not at all likely the Rajah would employ Poorun Chund to write secret letters of such importance to the Sheik.

4thly. That the Sheik was at one time ready to come away, in obedience to the Durbar's orders, and wrote to say so ; if after that he rebelled, he did so on his own account.

He is finally requested to write out a fair copy, and deposit it with the Court, who will cause it to be translated, and record the contents in full.—(See Appendix.)

With reference to some remarks of Deena Nath's, implying that the rebellion of the Sheik was entirely of his own raising, Sheik Imamooddeen puts it to the Court, whether it is likely he should, single-handed, undertake to oppose the British, who had conquered the Sikhs, and given Cashmere to Maharajah Golab Sing, unless he had been promised assistance from Lahore.

Lala Poorun Chund is again asked, and declares that he has been times innumerable employed by the Rajah to write perwannas to different parties, and in particular to Dewan Moolraj, which Rajah Lal Sing must know very well, and will not deny.

Rajah Lal Sing remarks, that to make the cases parallel, he ought to have employed Jus Mull, the vakeel of Dewan Moolraj.

With reference to the question asked yesterday by Dewan Deena Nath, if the Sheik could show any other letter from the Rajah, written by the hand of Poorun Chund, a paper is now produced by Sheik Imamooddeen, addressed to him, a long while ago, by the Rajah, and which is also in the handwriting of Lala Poorun Chund ; two others were given up by the Sheik to Colonel Lawrence at Thanah ; and the Sheik says there must be many others among his papers. The paper being shown to Rajah Lal Sing, is recognised, and acknowledged by him as authentic. (No. 7.)

With reference to the objection made by Dewan Deena Nath, that it is not probable the Rajah would employ Poorun Chund in so important an affair, Poorun Chund says that, if the Court wish, he will prove that he has been employed by the Rajah, before this, in other affairs much more important and secret even than the Cashmere rebellion—*e. g.* in the negotiations between Rajah Lal Sing and Maharajah Golab Sing, to murder Heera Sing and Pundit Julla, the letters from the Rajah were written by Poorun Chund.

Mr. Currie and the members of the Court then withdrew, inviting the Ministers and chief Sirdars to attend them in Mr. Currie's tent, and hear the decision of the Court. Rajah Lal Sing, Sheik Imamooddeen, and the rest of the Sirdars, remain with Lieutenant Edwardes, Assistant Commissioner, and Secretary to the Court.

Appendix.

It was expected that Dewan Deena Nath would give in the written defence of the Durbar, as read by him from notes. A very brief note of its general contents was therefore made in its proceedings. The Dewan has not sent the defence, it cannot therefore be recorded; but a fuller statement of its import is recorded in the précis, drawn up by Mr. Currie, and signed by the members of the Court.

The original papers filed by the Durbar and by Sheik Imamooddeen, are sent with this: with reference to the nature of the former, and their non-applicability to the matter at issue, it has not been considered necessary to make translations of them.

The depositions of the parties are all recorded in Persian in the Agent's office.

F. CURRIE, *President.*

Abstract of Proceedings, with remarks and decision.

The statement of Sheik Imamooddeen is to the effect that he received secret instructions from the Vizier Rajah Lal Sing, through his confidential agent Poorun Chund, to resist the occupation of Cashmere by Rajah Golab Sing, and to create disturbances in the province; that he replied, in a matter of this kind, the mere letters of Poorun Chund would not be sufficient for him to act upon, he must have a writing from the Rajah to himself, and a paper to assure and guide the troops; and that he subsequently received the three papers which he delivered to Colonel Lawrence at Thanah, and that he considered these papers his warrant for raising the rebellion which he had headed, and in which Vizier Luckput Rae and others were killed.

The proofs adduced by Sheik Imamooddeen in substantiation of his statement, are these:—

1. A letter said to have been written to him by Rajah Lal Sing, desiring him to create disturbances in the Province of Cashmere, and oppose the occupation thereof by Maharajah Golab Sing, dated 13th Sawun.

2. An ikranameh, dated 12th Sawun, which accompanied the said letter, engaging to maintain him in his jagheers, and to intercede with the British officers for his Julunder property, and promising further reward to him, and to his followers, if he did as directed in the letter.

3. A perwanna from the Durbar to the officers and soldiers in Cashmere, exhorting them to exert themselves and do good service (khidmut) at the bidding of the Sheik, without fear of consequences, and promising in that case, that they should be continued in service when they came to Lahore.

4. The evidence of Poorun Chund, in corroboration of the statement of the Sheik, as to the nature of the communications which passed between Rajah Lal Sing and the Sheik, through him, his confidential agent at Lahore, and as to the authenticity of the documents.

5. The evidence of Dewan Hakim Rae, a confidential servant of the Durbar, who was deputed from Lahore in August, to bring away the Sheik from Cashmere.

Translations of the above letters and paper, and a transcript of the evidence in full, are in the proceedings.

The above is the evidence adduced by the Sheik, the examination of which occupied the whole of the first day.

On the second day Dewan Deena Nath, on the part of the Durbar, read from notes a paper to the effect that, from the date of concluding the Treaty, the Durbar had at once set themselves to work to carry into effect its provisions, and that in no instance had anything been done in opposition thereto; that in regard to Cashmere, measures had been taken to put the officers of the Maharajah Golab Sing in possession of the province, and that as early as May last, the Hurree Purbut was made over to Luckput Rae, the Maharajah's

Vizier, who had given a dukkulnameh (a deed acknowledging possession), which he had with him, and would produce. In evidence of these assertions, copies of several perwannas to Sheik Imamooddeen, written on different dates about April and May, peremptorily directing him to make over the province and the forts, according to the terms of the Treaty, were produced, the authenticity of which the Sheik did not deny; an urzee from the Sheik to the Durbar was also read (admitted by the Sheik) acknowledging the receipt of these orders, and stating his readiness to obey them, but urging the difficulties of settling his accounts with the Maharajah, and making the necessary arrangements in accordance with the Treaty, and requesting a few months' delay. This urzee is dated 1st Bysack, early in May.

The defence then proceeded, in reference to the statement of Dewan Hakim Rae, to state that several perwannas had been sent to that officer from the Durbar to hasten on his way, and to perform the service on which he had been sent to bring away the Sheik. Some of these were produced, and admitted by Dewan Hakim Rae. It was urged that Hakim Rae having, contrary to the orders of the Durbar, made culpable delay in proceeding to Cashmere, had concocted the story of secret instructions to exculpate himself.

The next point referred to was the facility of forging signatures, and the great difficulty in detecting such forgeries; in proof of which two orders on the Lahore Pay Office were put in, on which it was asserted pay had been issued on the faith of the signatures being that of Rajah Lal Sing, and which proved afterwards to have been fabricated. (The signatures were clumsy imitations.)

The defence then referred to the evidence of Poorun Chund, in regard to the ikrarnameh and letter, in his handwriting, to the Sheik, and stated that it was never the custom of the Durbar, or Vizier, to send an order or important communication to a principal in the handwriting of his confidential agent, but usually the Durbar Moonshees only wrote these orders or communications, but that sometimes other parties, but never the Agents of the parties addressed. (To this Sirdar Shere Sing Attareewala dissented, and told the Dewan that he knew the facts to be otherwise.)

The defence concluded by general observations of the kindness, consideration, and mercy shown by the British Government to the Maharajah, and to the Durbar and to all its members, and dwelt on the improbability, not to say impossibility, of their being so mad as to do an act which must endanger not only themselves and their prospects individually, but must affect the interest of the Maharajah and the existence of the Government. It is stated that this was one of the machinations of Maharajah Golab Sing, whose creature the Sheik was, and had always been, and that this infamous plot was contrived by the Maharajah for the destruction of the Durbar.

Dewan Deena Nath stated that he had nothing further to urge, and the Sheik was asked if he had anything to say in reply. He stated, in reference to the assertion, regarding confidential agents never being employed to write to their principals, that he had numberless letters from the Rajah to himself, written by Poorun Chund, which the Rajah could not, if produced, deny; that two of these he had given to Colonel Lawrence at Thanah (these were with Colonel Lawrence's office, which has not yet arrived, and could not be produced,) and that he had one with him which he requested might be examined, and shown the Rajah. This was a letter written to the Sheik, in the handwriting of Poorun Chund, and bearing the signature of the Rajah, evidently corresponding with those in the letter and ikrarnameh. This communication was apparently sent in April or May. It began by lamenting that the Province of Cashmere had been made over to Golab Sing, but stated, that as such was the will of the British Government, it could not be helped. It told him, that when he had made over charge of the Government to the new possessors, he should come to Lahore, where all kindness and consideration would be shown him, and arrangements for his future provision would be made. (The Rajah admitted the authenticity of the letter.)

The Sheik requested that Poorun Chund might be examined as to the important matters in which letters had been written by him in the name of the Rajah, and as to the extent to which the Rajah trusted him. This was assented to. Poorun Chund then commenced disclosures of secret affairs in which he had been employed by the Rajah to write to the Sheik, and other parties, to bring about the murder of Rajah Heera Sing and Pundit Julla, and relative to his having been employed to negotiate the sale of gold stolen from the

palace when the Rajah was Toshakhanneah, but these being foreign to the question at issue, the Court did not think it right to allow him to proceed.

The Sheik said he had nothing further to urge.

With regard to the first letter produced by Sheik Imamooddeen, it is in the handwriting of Poorun Chund, and not of any of the Durbar Moonshees, but it bears the signature of the Rajah, to all appearance. The Rajah denies this signature; and though, from a comparison with a great many other undoubted and admitted signatures of the Rajah, there seems no reason to doubt its authenticity, it is difficult to prove judicially its genuineness. The genuineness of the letter itself, as to the instructions of Rajah Lal Sing, must rest mainly on the circumstances of the case which will be adverted to more fully hereafter.

The ikrarnamoh is also in the handwriting of Poorun Chund; it bears a date differing one day from that of the letter, which accompanied it; this circumstance is satisfactorily explained by Poorun Chund, in his evidence; and the fact of this difference of date is not to be lost sight of; a person fabricating two documents connected one with the other, and concerning the same transaction, stated to have been sent and delivered by the same bearer, would not be likely to make them of different dates, and thus to render an explanation of their discrepancy necessary. The same as was said of the writing and the seal, in the case of the letter, is equally applicable to the ikrarnamoh. The seal appears genuine; judicial proof of its genuineness, apart from the circumstances of the case, is difficult.

The perwanna is in the handwriting of Moonshee Ruttun Chund Reshderras, the Durbar Moonshee. Its authenticity is proved by the writer, and admitted by the Rajah. It is a remarkable document; a literal translation of it, with its date, is given in the margin.* This, though not noticed by the Durbar in the defence, was stated by the Rajah, on its being produced, to be the only document addressed by him to the troops in Cashmere, either before or after the rebellion. It is proved by the Durbar Moonshee, that it was written by the order of Rajah Lal Sing, when none of the other members of the Government were present, and that it was written after a private and secret conference, the purport of which he does not know, and at the close of which he was called to write it. The Rajah states that it was written at the request of Poorun Chund, who told him that the Sheik asked for a document to assure the troops, and to promise that they would receive their pay on arrival at Lahore with the Sheik, if they would come with him, and that the Sheik could not come away without the troops, as he was afraid of Maharajah Golab Sing, and of being plundered by the way.

But the purport of the perwanna is quite different, it does not direct the troops to leave Cashmere, and accompany the Sheik to Lahore. It directs them to remain with the Sheik in the performance of service at his bidding, and to have no apprehension. What assurance and encouragement could the troops require to come to Lahore for their pay?

But if such was the purport and intent of the perwanna, why was its existence studiously kept secret from the political officers at Lahore, who were in daily communication with the Rajah about the evacuation of Cashmere, when every minute circumstance in connection with the affairs of Cashmere, was constantly discussed? On the arrival of this perwanna a salute was fired by the troops. Shortly afterwards the rebellion broke out, and these troops did perform service with the Sheik at his bidding, by attacking the troops of Maharajah Golab Sing, killing the Vizier Luckput Rae, and putting themselves in open rebellion in the province.

If the Rajah did not intend this to be the result of his perwanna, he would assuredly have sent another, explaining what he did mean, and ordering the

* Be it known to the officers and soldiers and office-bearers, who are under the orders of Ameenool Moolk Sheik Imamooddeen Behadoor, Governor of (appointed to) Cashmere.

At this time the orders of the Maharajah are issued to you. It behoves you, on the receipt of His Highness' order, to remain with Ameenool Moolk Sheik Imamooddeen, in performing services for the Government; and whenever you return to the presence, you will be continued in the service. Be assured; have no apprehension. Remain with the Sheik. Attend to this order.

This bears the seal of the Maharajah, and the signature of Rajah Lal Sing.

Dated 15th Sawun, 1903 (or 28th of July, 1846).

troops to come away, in direct terms; but he admits that he sent the troops no other communication. If he did not mean the rebellion to be the result of his order, he is still responsible for such result when he took no means to counteract it. It is altogether impossible, however, to believe, that a document so worded, independently of other circumstances, was intended to be understood by the troops that they were merely to return to Lahore. If it were an obscurely worded document, which it is not, its meaning must be judged by the result it produced.

The Rajah states that his perwanna to the troops was sent to Sheik Imamooddeen, at his request. *It could not possibly have gone alone. It must have been accompanied by some perwanna or letter to the Sheik, apprising him of its having been sent, and of its purport. The Sheik produces the letter, which he says accompanied it, and which, if true, explains distinctly the meaning of the perwanna and the transaction.* The Rajah denies the authenticity of this letter, but does not produce or refer to any other; and as some letter must exist, and the Rajah has no other to adduce, it is but fair to the Sheik, and in accordance with reason, to suppose that the one produced by the Sheik is the true one.

The letter and ikrarnamch, moreover, have all the appearance of authenticity, and their seals of being genuine; *prima facie*, there is nothing but the improbability of the transaction, to throw doubt upon them,—the fact of the transaction is established independently of them by the perwanna. All circumstances favour the belief of their authenticity, and the only attempt made by the Durbar to establish their invalidity has signally failed.

Supposing the letter and ikrarnamch to be true, the perwanna to the troops is quite intelligible, and all is in keeping. Assuming them false, and the Rajah's story true, the perwanna, and the reasons for writing it, are altogether inexplicable.

The evidence of Poorun Chund, as might be expected, tallies with that of his principal, Sheik Imamooddeen. It was given, however, with all the appearance of being true. Every opportunity was given to the Durbar to disprove it, and the only attempt they made to do so failed. The explanation of the discrepancy of dates is satisfactory.

The evidence of Dewan Hakim Rae is important. He was deputed by the Durbar to Cashmere about the period that the letter was written. He was sent in consequence of the Political officers urging the Durbar to send a special emissary to bring away the Sheik, who was assuming a posture of defiance. It was of importance that he should go with all expedition, and invested with authority to bring away the Sheik. His open instructions were to this purport. He declares that he received secret verbal instructions from the Rajah, directing him to aid and assist the Sheik, who had been written to by him to raise disturbances, and oppose the occupation of Rajah Golab Sing. A vakeel from the Agency was sent with the Dewan, to take him the nearest road, by Jummoo. On learning this, by the written representation of the Dewan, Rajah Lal Sing ordered him to go by the circuitous route of Bhimber and Rajourie. The Dewan, who was in constant communication with the Rajah, took twenty days in reaching Rajourie, which he could easily have done in seven, and did not reach that place until the rebellion had broken out. His delay was known to the Rajah. Perwannas were certainly sent by the Durbar to hasten on, but no other emissary was sent to enforce the orders, the neglect of which was known; till at last the Political Agent insisted on another officer going, and then Utter Sing was dispatched. The written orders to go by Bhimber and Rajourie, and not as the Political Agent directed, by Jummoo, and the unaccountable delay in reaching Rajourie and Cashmere (he was one month and eight days in going, and fifteen days in returning), tend to confirm the statement which he makes, that he received secret orders from the Rajah, contrary to those which were given openly by the Durbar.

The circumstances stated in the defence bear very little on the matter at issue. The only facts stated are: 1st, the orders given by the Durbar to the Sheik, to evacuate the province; 2dly, the perwanna sent to Dewan Hakim Rae, to proceed on his mission; and 3dly, the practice of never employing an agent to write the letter addressed to his principal. The two first of these are admitted, and they do not affect the case; and the third is satisfactorily disproved by a document admitted to be true.

Upon full deliberation and consideration of the evidence and statements

referred to above, we are unanimously of opinion that it is established and proved, that the Vizier, Rajah Lal Sing, did encourage Sheik Imamooddeen to excite disturbance in Cashmere, and to oppose the occupation of the province by Maharajah Golab Sing; and that he did encourage the troops in the province to aid Sheik Imamooddeen in the late rebellion.

We do not find it proved that the other members of the Durbar were participators with the Rajah Lal Sing in the above proceeding, or cognizant thereof.

F. CURRIE, <i>President.</i>	
H. M. LAWRENCE,	
J. H. LITTLER, M.-Gen.,	} <i>Members.</i>
JOHN LAWRENCE,	
A. GOLDIE, Lt.-Col.	

Inclosure 3 in No. 9.

The Governor-General to F. Currie, Esq.

*Camp, Bhyrowal Ghat, Left Bank of the Beas,
December 7, 1846.*

Sir,

THE course which you adopted, as communicated in your letter of the 2nd instant, of associating Major-General Sir J. Littler and Lieutenant-Colonel Goldie, with yourself and the officers of the Political Department, Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence and Mr. J. Lawrence, for the purpose of inquiring into the causes which led to the insurrection in Cashmere, has my entire approbation.

You selected the best form and mode of proceeding; and the invitation given to the leading chiefs to attend the examination of the witnesses in open Durbar, was well calculated to satisfy all parties that the inquiry would be conducted in a fair and impartial manner; and I am gratified to find, by your report of the 5th instant, received this morning, that the Chiefs had unanimously assented to the mode of investigation as being satisfactory to them.

I observe that sixty-five Chiefs attended the proceedings, and that, after the examination of the witnesses had closed, and the written notes of the Vizier's defence were read, you went through the whole of the evidence, explaining to the assembled Chiefs, whose names are enumerated in the minutes, the grounds on which you, and the officers associated with you had unanimously come to the decision that it had been proved that the Vizier, Rajah Lal Sing, did encourage Sheik Imamooddeen to excite disturbances in Cashmere, and oppose the occupation of the province by Maharajah Golab Sing.

You further state that all the Chiefs were unanimous in assenting to the immediate deposition of the Rajah from the Vizierut.

I have attentively perused the whole of these documents. I concur in the decision, which is clearly justified by the evidence, and I confirm it.

You will address Maharajah Duleep Sing, transmitting your letter through the present members of the Durbar, and stating that I have read your report of these proceedings, which have received my confirmation.

That it is a subject of much regret to me, that his Highness' Vizier should have been guilty of the crime of secretly encouraging the Governor of the Province of Cashmere to violate the Treaty of Lahore.

You will state that the British Government takes a deep interest in His Highness' welfare, on account of his youth, and the difficulties of his position; that I appreciate the good conduct of His Highness' troops under Sirdar Tej Sing and Sirdar Shere Sing, in promptly marching to fulfil the obligations of the Treaty, and that I will not hold the State responsible for the criminal acts of the Vizier, in which it is not proved that the other members of the Durbar did participate.

You will further declare to His Highness, that I am satisfied to accept the deposition of the Vizier, as an atonement for his infraction of the Treaty, and to require that immediate steps be taken for his removal from the Punjab, and for placing him in the custody of the British officer in charge of the political duties at Ferozepore, whence the Rajah will be conveyed to such place of residence in the interior of Hindoostan as I may hereafter appoint.

G

No precautions will be omitted to insure the Rajah's personal safety.

You will repeat the assurance of my friendly disposition towards His Highness, and my desire to promote, by every means in my power, the prosperity of his people.

His Highness' Government must be convinced, by the acts of friendship shown in the course of the last eight months, that I am anxious to maintain the Treaty in all its integrity. You will refer to the declarations made by me in public Durbar on the occasion of its signature, and you will adduce the recent instances in which the co-operation of British officers employed by me, has been usefully exerted to assist His Highness' Government in the amicable settlement of disputed claims, as proofs of the motives by which I am actuated. In short, no opportunity has been neglected to aid the Government, and, if possible, save the State.

It is, however, for His Highness' Government, and those of the Chiefs who have the greatest interest in the preservation of the Raj, to decide upon the course which it may be deemed most conducive for the interests of the State to adopt.

You will record my determination to hold the Lahore Government responsible for the tranquillity of the frontier.

It is my paramount duty to declare, that I cannot permit the renewal of a state of anarchy and military despotism, similar to that which existed last year; and that whilst I am anxious that the British Government should continue on terms of peace and amity with its neighbours, I am determined to maintain order; but that I cannot, after the experience, during the last eight months, of the mal-administration of the late Vizier Rajah Lal Sing, consent to leave a British force at Lahore beyond the stipulated period, for the purpose of supporting a Government which, in its present state of weakness, can give no assurance of its power to govern justly as regards its people, and no guarantee for the performance of its obligations towards its neighbours.

A frank declaration of these sentiments must be considered as an indication of a friendly desire to caution the Government to be most careful in the reconstruction of the Durbar, and the choice of a Vizier; and that in all these deliberations, the Governor-General has no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of the country, although I am ready, on the terms of the Treaty, to give the aid of my advice and good offices, for the furtherance of the interests of the Lahore Government.

I have been much gratified by observing the very judicious measures you have taken throughout these transactions, which have been conducted by you and your colleagues with the most careful deliberation, to secure the ends of substantial justice under circumstances of no ordinary difficulty.

I have, &c.

HARDINGE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 9.

F. Currie, Esq., to Maharajah Duleep Sing.

Lahore, December 9, 1846.

A FULL report of the proceedings on the investigation which took place on the 3rd and 4th of this month, connected with the rebellion in Cashmere, with a statement of the opinion and finding of the officers who conducted the investigation, and of the circumstances that followed, was communicated to the Governor-General, who, in reply, has approved and confirmed those proceedings, and has directed me to communicate his Lordship's decision to Your Highness, with the following remarks.

It is a subject of much regret to the Governor-General, that Your Highness' Vizier should have been guilty of the crime of secretly encouraging the Governor of the Province of Cashmere to violate the Treaty of Lahore; and that, at a time when a British force was in the occupation of Lahore, at the solicitation of Your Highness' Government, for the express purpose of aiding your Highness in fulfilling the conditions of the Treaty, and of supporting Your Highness' Minister in the organization of the Government.

The Governor-General takes a deep interest in Your Highness' welfare, as

the son of Maharajah Runjeet Sing, the old and faithful ally of the British Government, and on account of Your Highness' youth, and the difficulties of Your Highness' position. His Lordship also appreciates the good conduct of Your Highness' troops under Sirdars Tej Sing and Shere Sing, in promptly marching to fulfil the obligations of the Treaty; and, in consideration of these circumstances, his Lordship will not hold the Lahore State, on this occasion, responsible for the criminal acts of the Vizier; in which acts it is not proved that the other members of the Durbar participated.

The Governor-General is satisfied to accept the deposition of the Vizier as an atonement for the infraction of the Treaty; but his Lordship considers the removal of Rajah Lal Sing from the Lahore territories, expedient and necessary, and requires that he should be forwarded immediately to Ferozepore, there to be made over to the charge of the political officer, whence the Rajah will be conveyed to such place in the British territories as his Lordship may appoint for his residence, and where the Rajah will be detained with every proper consideration to his comfort and dignity.

The Governor-General desires to repeat the assurance, so often given, of his friendly disposition towards Your Highness, and his desire to promote by every means in his power, the stability of Your Highness' Government, and the prosperity of Your Highness' subjects.

Your Highness' Government must be convinced, by the acts of friendship shown in the course of the last eight months, that the Governor-General is anxious to maintain the conditions of the Treaty in all their integrity. The recent instances in which the co-operation and advice of the British officers under his Lordship's orders have been exerted so beneficially for the interests of Your Highness' Government in the amicable settlement of disputed claims, and in the adjustment of other serious and embarrassing cases, must be a sufficient proof and evidence to Your Highness, of the motives by which the Governor-General is actuated, and which were fully explained to Your Highness' Durbar, and the assembled Chiefs, in March last, on the occasion of the ratifying of the Treaty of Lahore.

It is now incumbent on Your Highness' Government, and the Chiefs who have the greatest interest in the preservation of the Reasut, to decide upon the course which may be deemed best for the interest of the State to adopt, under present circumstances. It is the anxious hope of his Lordship, that such arrangements will be made, as may conduce to the establishment and maintenance of the Government; but it must be clearly understood that, after the experience, during the last eight months, of the mal-administration and bad faith of the late Vizier, Rajah Lal Sing, the Governor-General will not consent to leave a British force at Lahore, beyond the stipulated period, for the sake of supporting a Government which can give no assurance of its power to govern justly as regards its people, and no guarantee for the performance of its obligations towards its neighbours. It behoves Your Highness and the Sirdars of the State, to be most careful in the reconstruction of the Government, either by the appointment of a capable Vizier, or by such other course as may be deemed most expedient: in these arrangements the British Government can exercise no interference, but the Governor-General will be ready, if required, in accordance with the terms of the Treaty, to give the Government of Your Highness the aid of his advice and good offices, for the furtherance of the interests of the Lahore Government.

The Governor-General, however, considers it incumbent on him to caution Your Highness and the Sirdars of the Reasut, that his Lordship is determined to hold the Lahore Government responsible for the tranquillity of the frontier, and that he will not permit the renewal of a state of anarchy, misrule, and military insubordination, similar to that which existed last year. His Lordship is anxious that the British Government should always continue in terms of peace and amity with its neighbours, but it must hold the neighbouring State responsible that a state of things adverse to the interests of British subjects, and destructive of the tranquillity of the British frontier, shall not be permitted to prevail within it. My friend, I have communicated to Your Highness these friendly sentiments of the Governor-General, which have their origin in a sincere desire for the welfare of Your Highness' Government, and I feel satisfied that, by following the advice of His Lordship, Your Highness will secure the happiness and prosperity of yourself and kingdom.

Inclosure 5 in No. 9.

Maharajah Duleep Sing to F. Currie, Esq.

WITH reference to your statement, that you had reported to the Governor-General, the result of the investigation into the case of the recent disturbances at Cashmere, instituted by the Committee held on the 2nd of December, 1846, and that His Lordship, in reply, after a careful and attentive perusal of the proceedings connected with the case, had expressed his high approbation of the opinion given by the Committee, and confirmed the decision passed by them, I beg to remark that the British Authorities are incomparably wise, prudent, just, experienced, and capable of distinguishing truth from falsehood, and that they are sincere friends of this Government. I have full confidence in them, and entirely approve of the decision passed by them, after a due investigation into the case of Cashmere, which decision has been confirmed by the Governor-General.

In reply to your remark, that it has been a source of much regret to His Lordship, that notwithstanding a British force was stationed at this place in compliance with the request of the Lahore Durbar and the Vizier, for the purpose of affording aid for the stability and maintenance of this State, the Vizier (appointed by me) had pursued an unbecoming line of conduct, *i. e.*, he had secretly excited Sheik Imamooddeen (the Governor of Cashmere on the part of the Lahore Government) into rebellion, and instigated him not to make over Cashmere, which instructions were plainly and clearly in violation of the Treaty; I beg to state that this conduct of the Vizier has been a subject of much grief to this Government, and is considered a highly unwarrantable and unjustifiable act.

With reference to your statement, that the British Government has approved of the measure taken by me of having deposed the Vizier, in consequence of his recent conduct, which was inconsistent with the stipulations of the Treaty, and that in consideration of the two following grounds, *viz.* :—

1st. My tender age, being a minor, the difficulties of my position, and my being a descendant of the late Maharajah Runjeet Sing, the faithful ally of the British Government;

2ndly. On account of the exertions of my army, under Sirdar Tej Sing and Sirdar Shere Sing, in quelling the disturbances at Cashmere, which service was undertaken for the purpose of maintaining the stipulations of the Treaty; and further, in consideration that no other officers of the Lahore Durbar appeared to be implicated in the crimes of the Vizier; in consideration of these grounds, the British Government has acquitted this State; but that the Governor-General now deems it proper that the Vizier should be banished from my dominions, and that, therefore, it is necessary that I should immediately dispatch him with his family to Ferozepore.

With reference to these statements, I beg to state that I cannot adequately return my grateful thanks for the kind feelings which the British Government has evinced towards me, in thus considering my tender age, and the ancient relations of friendship which have subsisted between the British Government and the late Maharajah Runjeet Sing.

The strict adherence of the British Authorities to their pledged words convinces me that these kind feelings of the British Government towards me will daily increase, and that the ties of friendship and amity existing between the two Governments, according to the Treaties, will gain strength day by day, through the interposition of Colonel Lawrence, the Agent to the Governor-General.

The approbation of the British Government of the services performed by the troops of this Government employed in the Cashmere campaign, under the Commander-in-chief, Sirdar Tej Sing, and Sirdar Shere Sing, has afforded unbounded gratification to me, and the above-named Sirdars, and the army in general. I am thankful for the good offices of the Governor-General's Agent (who is appointed to increase the relations of friendship subsisting between the two Governments), in having settled the affairs of Cashmere in so satisfactory a manner. You have stated that the British Government has acquitted this State of the crimes of the Vizier, as none of its other officers appear to have been

implicated in his crime, and that the British Government considered his deposition by me as a sufficient atonement, and have also considered it necessary that I should remove the deposed Vizier from my territories, and dispatch him with his family to Ferozepore. Sir, you are well aware that I have deposed the Vizier, and given peremptory orders to him to take his departure for Ferozepore without loss of time; that preparations necessary for his departure have been made, and that carriage, &c., have been supplied by this Government, for the conveyance of his baggage. These circumstances need not, therefore, be recapitulated. He has this day, the 1st of Poos, 1903, taken his departure for his destination.

In reply to your statement, that on the arrival of the deposed Vizier with the Assistant Agent, a place for his residence will be selected in the British territories, with due regard to his dignity and comfort, according to the instructions of the Governor-General; I beg to say that this proposal has originated in the kind feeling of the British Government towards him, and redounds to the fame of that Government.

You have stated that the feelings of friendship entertained by the Governor-General towards me have remained unimpaired, and that it is His Lordship's desire to promote by every means in his power the stability of my Government and the prosperity of the people; that the satisfactory proposals and the beneficial suggestions, as well as the exertions of the Governor-General's Agent, (to whom the affairs of my Government are entrusted,) in the troublesome times in the State for these last eight months, are well known facts; that these proceedings of the Agent prove the sincerity of the desire of the Governor-General for the stability of this State, as expressed by his Lordship at the time of his making over the Treaty to me at Lahore. Sir, I have full confidence in the kindness of the British Government, in the continuance of the favours of the Governor-General, and the attention of the Governor-General's Agent. I am much gratified and thankful for the kindness which the Governor-General's Agent has evinced for these eight months, (since the conclusion of the Treaty in the presence of the Governor-General,) in protecting lives and settling the affairs of the State to my satisfaction. I return my grateful thanks for the kindness of the Governor-General, and the exertions of the Agent in settling the affairs of Kangra, Cashmere, and Mooltan, and in causing the arrears of the pay of the troops to be discharged. The good counsels of the Governor-General are impressed on my mind; and I know it is incumbent on me always to remain faithful to the stipulations of the Treaty.

You have stated that myself, the officers, and the dependent Sirdars of the State should effect an arrangement for the administration of this Government, in such a manner that it may not prove prejudicial to the interests of the State; and you have also stated that it is the earnest desire of the Governor-General, that I should enjoy independent possession of the State; but that the British Government will, in future, afford no military aid to the Lahore State, in consideration of the events which have occurred during the last six months, more especially on account of the perfidious and disloyal conduct of the Vizier, and that the British force will, consequently, be withdrawn after the expiration of the specified term; and that myself and my officers and Sirdars should, therefore, establish a strong Government, either by appointing an able Vizier, or by making some other arrangement; and that the British Government will not interfere in these matters, but that the Governor-General will not fail to give his good counsels for the stability of my State, consistently with the stipulations of the Treaty, that I should explain to all my Officers and Sirdars that the Governor-General is desirous of maintaining the relations of friendship and amity subsisting between the British Government and the independent Chiefs, and that whenever the misrule of the Government of any of those Chiefs disturbs the peace of the British frontier, this Government will be held responsible for it; that you, therefore, previously advise me, in consideration of the friendship between the two Governments, to effect a satisfactory arrangement for the administration of my State; for, if in consequence of the recurrence of misrule in my Government, the peace of the British frontier be disturbed, I should be held responsible for the same; and that you have written all these instructions in a friendly style, without any reserve; that if I act up to them it will prove beneficial to my State.

Sir, I feel most thankful on the perusal of your kind letter, more especially

on learning that you have written to me, without reserve, these instructions in a friendly style for the welfare and stability of this State.

By God's blessing the British Government is always faithful to its engagements, which fact is impressed on my mind.

Yesterday, the 29th Mugsir, 1903, I explained to all the Sirdars and dependants of this State, regarding the arrangements for the administration of my Government, that I cannot adequately return my grateful thanks for the kindness which the Governor-General, in consideration of the ties of friendship which subsisted between the British Government and the late Maharajah Runjeet Sing, evinced towards me in appointing Colonel Lawrence his Agent, and in permitting him to remain with a British force, for the protection and administration of my State.

As the Governor-General is desirous of maintaining this State, it is not proper that the whole of the British force stationed here should be put to further inconvenience and annoyance. Nevertheless with regard to the necessity for establishing the Government of the country, and the fact of the time for the withdrawal of the troops having arrived, it is hoped, that the Agent, with two battalions, and one regiment of cavalry, and one battery, may be allowed to continue for some months, during which, what still remains to be done to complete the organization of the Government in an efficient manner may be effected; and there can be no doubt that Colonel Lawrence will, according to the provisions of the Treaty, give every aid and assistance in establishing the Government.

Inclosure 6 in No. 9.

F. Currie, Esq., to Maharajah Duleep Sing.

December 14, 1846.

THE request of Your Highness, that a portion of the British force now at Lahore, and the Agent of the Governor-General, should remain after the expiration of the stipulated time, which measure Your Highness states to be necessary for the establishment of the government of the country, involves a departure from the provisions of the Articles of Agreement executed on the 11th of March last, and is a very important matter.

It seems to me desirable that the Chiefs of the Durbar, with the Sirdars interested in the welfare of the Lahore State, should assemble at my Durbar tent, to-morrow, when I will lay before them distinctly the only conditions on which the Governor-General will consent to a modification of the Articles of Agreement above referred to; and it will be well that these Chiefs and Sirdars should be prepared to give a conclusive acquiescence or rejection of the said conditions, in order that the affair may be concluded, and the necessary orders given regarding the movement of the British force.

Inclosure 7 in No. 9.

Note of Conference with the Chiefs and Sirdars of the Lahore State, at a Meeting held in Durbar at Lahore, on the 15th of December, 1846.

THE following paper was read aloud to the assembled chiefs in Persian, clause by clause, and was then read in Hindoostanee; after which the Persian copy was placed in their hands, that they might, before any discussion took place, make themselves fully acquainted with its contents:

"As in the khureeta received by me yesterday, from His Highness Maharajah Duleep Sing, a distinct request is made for the continuance of a British force and a British Agent at Lahore, after the expiration of the time stipulated in the Articles of Agreement, dated 11th of March last, which is stated to be a measure absolutely necessary, it is incumbent on me to lay before the Chiefs of the Durbar, and the Sirdars, whose interests are bound up in the well-being of the State, the only terms on which the Governor-General will consent to a modification of the arrangements and engagements made in March last.

"It cannot be necessary, in this place, to advert to the sincere desire of the Governor-General to abide strictly by all the engagements and provisions of the Treaty of the 9th of March, and to the Articles of Agreement of the 11th of March last; his Lordship has, over and over again, declared that he desires anxiously to see an independent Government established at Lahore, and to abstain from all interference with that Government, and to remove, at the close of this month, the British troops from the Lahore territories. At the same time, his Lordship will not refuse his aid in the maintenance of the Reasut of the young Maharajah, if this aid is sincerely desired by the Chiefs, and if they are willing to accept it, on the only terms on which the Governor-General would be warranted in granting it.

"If the Chiefs are not willing to accept the aid on the terms proposed, which will have no other object than that of the welfare of the young Maharajah's interests and the prosperity of the country during his minority, they are free to reject it, and the Governor-General will most gladly withdraw from any interference with the affairs of the Lahore State, in accordance with the terms of the Treaty.

"The Governor-General cannot consent to give the aid of British soldiers and a British Agent, to maintain an administration, over the acts of which the British Government may have no control. This has been clearly stated in my khureeta dated the 9th of December.

"If solicited to aid in the administration of the Government, during the minority of the Maharajah, the British Agent must have full authority to interfere in, and to control all matters, in every department of the State, for the benefit of all connected with the Reasut.

"In such case every attention would be paid to the feelings of the Sikh people, to preserving the national institutions and customs, and to maintaining the just rights of all classes. No changes in the details of administration would be made, not necessary for obtaining these objects, and these details would be conducted by Native officers, as at present, who would be appointed and superintended by a Council of Regency, composed of the leading Chiefs and Sirdars, acting under the control and guidance of the British officers.

"The administration of the country would be conducted by this Council of Regency in the manner determined on by themselves in consultation with the British officer, who would have full authority to interfere in, and to direct the duties of every department.

"The members of this Council of Regency, once chosen, would not be liable to be displaced or changed without the concurrence of the Governor-General in Council.

"A British force would remain at Lahore for the protection of the city and country, in such position as the Governor-General should think best adapted for the security of the force, and, at the same time, for the convenience of the inhabitants of the town.

"A fixed sum in monthly instalments must be set apart from the revenues of the country for the maintenance of this force.

"The Governor-General must be at liberty to occupy any military post or fort with British soldiers which his Lordship may deem necessary for the security of the capital, or for maintaining the peace of the country.

"The provisions of the Treaty of Lahore, dated 9th of March, would remain in full force, except as affected, temporarily, by this arrangement, which would have effect only during the minority of the Maharajah Duleep Sing, or such shorter period as should be determined on by the British Government, with the concurrence of the Council of Regency.

"On the coming of age of the Maharajah, or at any period prior to that event, when the Governor-General should be satisfied that the interposition of British agency is no longer necessary for the maintenance of the Government, this arrangement would cease. The British troops and officers would withdraw, and the Treaty of Lahore of the 9th of March, would be in full force and operation.

"If these principles are agreed to by the Chiefs, minor details may be determined on, and Articles of Agreement, to supersede those of the 11th of March, may be executed."

After the above paper had been read and considered, there appeared, from the remarks made, a prevalent desire to express immediate concurrence; but it

was suggested by Dewan Deena Nath, on the part of the members of the former Durbar, that, though there was every willingness and desire among all, that the State should avail itself of the interposition of the British Government, on the terms stated, it was necessary, in the first instance, that the exact amount that they would be called upon to pay for the expenses of the army should be made known, as upon that amount would depend their ability to avail themselves of the Governor-General's kindness.

They were told, that the expenses of the force now at Lahore exceed 30 lacs of rupees per annum, and that the Governor-General would not consider it expedient, at present, to employ a smaller force at that capital; but that, in consideration of the state of the Lahore treasury and revenues, His Lordship would be content that the Lahore State should pay 24 lacs, which would be the amount fixed for yearly payment, during the period of British aid in the administration.

The Chiefs requested leave to consult apart upon the subject, as the sum required bore so large a proportion to the whole revenue of the State.

After consulting nearly an hour, the Chiefs returned, and said that all other conditions were gratefully acceded to, and that they were willing to pay such sum as the State could afford; but this also they must agree to, if it was demanded; but they hoped that 20 lacs would be considered a sufficient sum. After further discussion, the sum of 22 lacs was agreed upon, and the Chiefs whose names are stated in the commencement of this paper, then desired to record every one his individual hearty acquiescence in all the proposals, and their united gratitude to the Governor-General, for thus extending his protection to the Maharajah, and granting the aid of the British Government, to maintain an efficient administration during His Highness' minority.

The meeting then broke up, and adjourned to the following day, when it was settled that a meeting should take place to draw up and execute Articles of Agreement.

No. 10.

The Governor-General to the Secret Committee.

(Extract.) *Camp, left Bank of the Beas,
December 22, 1846. (No. 61.)*

IN pursuance of the course which I observed at Lahore, when the Treaty of Peace was signed last March, I propose to publish for general information in the "Calcutta Gazette," a notification which will contain the Articles of Agreement signed at Lahore on the 16th of December.

Inclosure in No. 10.

The Right Honourable the Governor-General of India is pleased to direct the publication of the following Notification.

*Camp, Bhyrowal Ghat, on the left Bank of the Beas,
December 22, 1846.*

THE late Governor of Cashmere on the part of the Lahore State, Sheik Imamooddeen, having resisted by force of arms the occupation of the Province of Cashmere by Maharajah Golab Sing, the Lahore Government was called upon to coerce their subject, and to make over the province to the representative of the British Government, in fulfilment of the conditions of the Treaty of Lahore, dated 9th of March, 1846.

A British force was employed to support and aid, if necessary, the combined forces of the Lahore State, and Maharajah Golab Sing, in the above operations.

Sheik Imamooddeen intimated to the British Government that he was acting under orders received from the Lahore Durbar in the course he was pursuing, and stated that the insurrection had been instigated by written instructions received by him from the Vizier, Rajah Lal Sing.

Sheik Imamooddeen surrendered to the British Agent on a guarantee from

that officer that if the Sheik could, as he asserted, prove that his acts were in accordance with his instructions, and that the opposition was instigated by the Lahore Minister, the Durbar should not be permitted to inflict upon him, either in his person, or his property, any penalty on account of his conduct on this occasion. The British Agent pledged his Government to a full and impartial investigation of the matter.

A public inquiry was instituted into the facts adduced by Sheik Imamooddeen, and it was fully established that Rajah Lal Sing did secretly instigate the Sheik to oppose the occupation by Maharajah Golab Sing of the Province of Cashmere.

The Governor-General immediately demanded that the Ministers and Chiefs of the Lahore State should depose, and exile to the British Provinces, the Vizier Rajah Lal Sing.

His Lordship consented to accept the deposition of Rajah Lal Sing as an atonement for the attempt to infringe the Treaty by the secret intrigues and machinations of the Vizier. It was not proved that the other members of the Durbar had cognizance of the Vizier's proceedings, and the conduct of the Sirdars and the Sikh army in the late operations for quelling the Cashmere insurrection, and removing the obstacles to the fulfilment of the Treaty, proved that the criminality of the Vizier was not participated in by the Sikh nation.

The Ministers and Chiefs unanimously decreed, and carried into immediate effect, the deposition of the Vizier.

After a few days' deliberation, relative to the means of forming a Government at Lahore, the remaining members of the Durbar, in concert with all the Sirdars and Chiefs of the State, solicited the interference and aid of the British Government, for the maintenance of an Administration, and the protection of the Maharajah Duleep Sing during the minority of His Highness.

This solicitation by the Durbar and Chiefs has led to the temporary modification of the relations between the British Government and that of Lahore, established by the Treaty of the 9th of March of the present year.

The terms and conditions of this modification are set forth in the following Articles of Agreement:—

Articles of Agreement concluded between the British Government and the Lahor Durbar, on the 16th December, 1846.

Whereas the Lahore Durbar and the principal Chiefs and Sirdars of the State, have, in express terms, communicated to the British Government, their anxious desire that the Governor-General should give his aid and assistance to maintain the administration of the Lahore State during the minority of the Maharajah Duleep Sing, and have declared this measure to be indispensable for the maintenance of the Government: and whereas the Governor-General has, under certain conditions, consented to give the aid and assistance solicited: the following Articles of Agreement, in modification of the Articles of Agreement executed at Lahore on the 11th of March last, have been concluded on the part of the British Government, by Frederick Currie, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of India, and Lieutenant Colonel Henry Montgomery Lawrence, C.B., Agent to the Governor-General, North-West Frontier, by virtue of full powers to that effect vested in them by the Right Honourable Viscount Hardinge, G.C.B., Governor-General; and, on the part of His Highness Maharajah Duleep Sing, by Sirdar Tej Sing, Sirdar Shere Sing, Dewan Deena Nath, Fakeer Noorooddeen, Rae Kishen Chund, Sirdar Runjore Sing Majeethia, Sirdar Utter Sing Kaleewala, Bhaee Nidham Sing, Sirdar Khan Sing Majeethia, Sirdar Shumshere Sing, Sirdar Lal Sing Morareea, Sirdar Kher Sing Sindhanwala, Sirdar Urjun Sing Rungrungaleah, acting with the unanimous consent and concurrence of the Chiefs and Sirdars of the State assembled at Lahore.

ARTICLE I.

All and every part of the Treaty of Peace between the British Government and the State of Lahore, bearing date the 9th day of March, 1846, except in so far as it may be temporarily modified in respect to Clause 15 of

the said Treaty, by this Engagement, shall remain binding upon the two Governments.

ARTICLE II.

A British officer, with an efficient establishment of Assistants, shall be appointed by the Governor-General to remain at Lahore, which Officer shall have full authority to direct and control all matters in every department of the State.

ARTICLE III.

Every attention shall be paid, in conducting the administration, to the feelings of the people, to preserving the national institutions and customs, and to maintaining the just rights of all classes.

ARTICLE IV.

Changes in the mode and details of administration shall not be made except when found necessary for effecting the objects set forth in the foregoing Clause, and for securing the just dues of the Lahore Government. These details shall be conducted by native officers as at present, who shall be appointed and superintended by a Council of Regency, composed of leading Chiefs and Sirdars acting under the control and guidance of the British Resident.

ARTICLE V.

The following persons shall, in the first instance, constitute the Council of Regency, viz., Sirdar Tej Sing, Sirdar Shere Sing Attareewala, Dewan Deena Nath, Fakcer Noorooddeen, Sirdar Runjore Sing Majeethia, Bhacc Nidham Sing, Sirdar Uttur Sing Kaleewala, Sirdar Shumsher Sing Sindhanwala; and no change shall be made in the persons thus nominated, without the consent of the British Resident, acting under the orders of the Governor-General.

ARTICLE VI.

The administration of the country shall be conducted by this Council of Regency, in such manner as may be determined on by themselves, in consultation with the British Resident, who shall have full authority to direct and control the duties of every department.

ARTICLE VII.

A British force, of such strength and numbers, and in such positions as the Governor-General may think fit, shall remain at Lahore, for the protection of the Maharajah and the preservation of the peace of the country.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Governor-General shall be at liberty to occupy with British soldiers any fort or military post in the Lahore territories; the occupation of which may be deemed necessary by the British Government for the security of the capital, or for maintaining the peace of the country.

ARTICLE IX.

The Lahore State shall pay to the British Government 22 lacs of new Nanuk Shaec rupees, of full tale and weight, per annum, for the maintenance

of this force, and to meet the expenses incurred by the British Government; such sum to be paid by two instalments, or 13 lacs and 20,000 in May or June, and 8 lacs and 80,000 in November or December, of each year.

ARTICLE X.

Inasmuch as it is fitting that Her Highness the Maharanee, the mother of Maharajah Duleep Sing, should have a proper provision made for the maintenance of herself and dependants, the sum of 1 lac and 50,000 rupees shall be set apart annually for that purpose, and shall be at Her Highness' disposal.

ARTICLE XI.

The provisions of this engagement shall have effect during the minority of His Highness Maharajah Duleep Sing, and shall cease and terminate on His Highness attaining the full age of sixteen years, or on the 4th of September of the year 1854; but it shall be competent to the Governor-General to cause the arrangement to cease at any period prior to the coming of age of His Highness, at which the Governor-General and the Lahore Durbar may be satisfied that the interposition of the British Government is no longer necessary for maintaining the government of His Highness the Maharajah.

This Agreement, consisting of Eleven Articles, was settled and executed at Lahore by the Officers and Chiefs and Sirdars above named, on the 16th day of December, 1846.

F. CURRIE.

H. M. LAWRENCE.

TEJ SING.

SHERE SING.

DEWAN DEENA NATH.

FAKEER NOOROODDEEN.

RAE KISHEN CHUND.

RUNJORE SING.

UTTER SING.

BHAAEE NIDHAM SING

SIRDAR KHAN SING.

SHUMSHERE SING.

LAL SING MORAREEA.

KHER SING.

URJUN SING.

No. 11.

The Governor-General to the Secret Committee.

Camp, Lahore,

January 2, 1847. (No. 1.)

(Extract.)

ON the 26th ultimo, Maharajah Duleep Sing, attended by a large number of Chiefs and Sirdars, paid me a state visit, at my camp at Bhyrowal, where the Articles of Agreement were ratified by the Maharajah and myself, with the usual ceremonies.

At this meeting, his Excellency the Commander-in-chief and the Staff were present, having been invited by me to Bhyrowal for the purpose.

Inclosure No. 6 of this dispatch is the copy of an official note describing these proceedings.

I arrived this morning at this place, for the purpose of returning the Maharajah's visit at His Highness' capital, and that I might be able to arrange with the General commanding, and the Engineer Officers, the best positions for the force which is to remain in occupation of Lahore.

The country is perfectly quiet, and the people of all classes appear satisfied and happy at the late arrangements.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Note of the Proceedings of a Durbar held at the Governor-General's Camp at Bhyrowal Ghat, on the left bank of the Beas, December 26, 1846.

AT 11 A.M. of the 26th of December, a public Durbar was held in the State Tent of the Right Honourable the Governor-General, at which his Excellency the Right Honourable the Commander-in-chief and Staff, with the British and Native officers attached to their Lordships' camps, attended.

Maharajah Duleep Sing, attended by Sirdar Tej Sing, the Commander-in-chief of the Lahore army, and the undermentioned Sirdars and Chiefs, with their suites, being present—

Sirdar Shere Sing Attareewala,
Dewan Deena Nath,
Sirdar Uttur Sing,
Bhaec Nidham Sing,
Fakcer Noorooddeen,
Runjore Sing Majeethia,
Shumshere Sing Sindhanwala,
Sirdar Khan Sing Majeethia,
Sirdar Khan Sing, son of Sham Sing,
Sirdar Kehr Sing,
Sirdar Pertaub Sing,
Sirdar Jowahir Sing,
Sirdar Kurrum Sing,
Sirdar Kerpai Sing,
Sirdar Urjun Sing,
Sirdar Soorut Sing Majeethia,
Sirdar Jowala Sing Maun,
Sirdar Khaja Mahomed Khan, son of
Peer Mahomed Khan,
Misr Meg Raj Jumal Rae,
Lala Ruttun Chund,
Lala Kaul Chund,
Moonshce Seeut Chund,
Lalla Ram Chund,
Lala Daveedyal,

Buckshee Imrie Rae,
Jowahir Mull,
Lala Bhag Sing,
Lala Surmput,
Luchmen Chund,
Bhaec Ameer Buksh,
Fakcer Zoohoonooddeen,
Fakcer Fazooddeen,
Pundit Radha Kishen,
Dewan Hakim Rae,
Misr Sahit Dyal,
Sirdar Futteh Khan Jowanna,
Sheik Imamooddeen,
Bhaec Dormun Sing,
Sirdar Goordut Sing,
General Golab Sing,
General Courtlandt,
Colonel Pal Sing,
Colonel Maun Sing,
Colonel Ruttun Sing,
Bhaec Issem Sing,
Colonel Mut Sing,
Sirdar Lal Sing Morareea,
Sirdar Runjore Sing Sindhanwala,
Rae Kishen Chund, &c.

The Articles of Agreement, dated the 16th of December, were ratified and exchanged with the usual ceremonies. After which the Governor-General addressed the Chiefs assembled in the following terms, the address being translated, sentence by sentence, by the Secretary to the Government of India, Mr. F. Currie:

“The sentiments which I expressed on the occasion of ratifying the Treaty of Peace last March at Lahore, have undergone no change. The British Government desires that peace and friendship may subsist between the two States.

“The notification which I have caused to be published of the recent transactions at Lahore contains a statement of the circumstances which have led to the modification of the Treaty. The Articles of Agreement have been inserted in that document. The Sirdars and Chiefs, in coming to this decision, have exercised their own judgment, influenced, no doubt, by the conviction that the interests of the Maharajah and the welfare of the people can best be secured by cultivating the friendship of the British Government.

“Acting on the same principle, of maintaining the Lahore Treaty, and of strengthening the bonds of amity and peace, I have undertaken, on the part of the British Government, to carry the terms of the Agreement into effect. No permanent alteration has been made in the Treaty of Lahore; every Article remains in full force, with the exception of the temporary suspension of Article XV during the minority of the Maharajah.

“The interposition of British influence will be exercised for the advantage of the people, and the success of this interposition will be assisted by the confidence

and cordiality with which the Sirdars will co-operate with the British Resident.

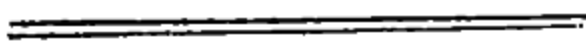
"That Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence, is well known to the Chiefs, by his energy, talents, and integrity; by these qualities he has conciliated their good-will and respect.

"The Agreement ratified this day, as well as the recent events at Lahore, will, I trust, impress upon every State in India the conviction that, whilst the British Government will, by just means, firmly consolidate its Eastern Empire, it will omit no efforts to improve the condition, and promote the prosperity, of all classes of the people.

"I also trust, that when His Highness shall have arrived at the age prescribed by law for assuming the government of the country, he will establish his rule on the firm basis of making his people happy, by his equity and justice.

"In the interval, the British Government will feel a cordial solicitude in all that regards His Highness' personal welfare."

After a short conversation on other subjects, the Maharajah, attended by his Chiefs, took leave of the Governor-General, and returned to his camp on the right bank of the river.



Vizier, who had given a dukkulnameh (a deed acknowledging possession), which he had with him, and would produce. In evidence of these assertions, copies of several perwannas to Sheik Inamooddeen, written on different dates about April and May, peremptorily directing him to make over the province and the forts, according to the terms of the Treaty, were produced, the authenticity of which the Sheik did not deny; an urzee from the Sheik to the Durbar was also read (admitted by the Sheik) acknowledging the receipt of these orders, and stating his readiness to obey them, but urging the difficulties of settling his accounts with the Maharajah, and making the necessary arrangements in accordance with the Treaty, and requesting a few months' delay. This urzee is dated 1st Bysack, early in May.

The defence then proceeded, in reference to the statement of Dewan Hakim Rae, to state that several perwannas had been sent to that officer from the Durbar to hasten on his way, and to perform the service on which he had been sent to bring away the Sheik. Some of these were produced, and admitted by Dewan Hakim Rae. It was urged that Hakim Rae having, contrary to the orders of the Durbar, made culpable delay in proceeding to Cashmere, had concocted the story of secret instructions to exculpate himself.

The next point referred to was the facility of forging signatures, and the great difficulty in detecting such forgeries; in proof of which two orders on the Lahore Pay Office were put in, on which it was asserted pay had been issued on the faith of the signatures being that of Rajah Lal Sing, and which proved afterwards to have been fabricated. (The signatures were clumsy imitations.)

The defence then referred to the evidence of Poorun Chund, in regard to the ikrarnameh and letter, in his handwriting, to the Sheik, and stated that it was never the custom of the Durbar, or Vizier, to send an order or important communication to a principal in the handwriting of his confidential agent, but usually the Durbar Moonshees only wrote these orders or communications, but that sometimes other parties, but never the Agents of the parties addressed. (To this Sirdar Shere Sing Attareewala dissented, and told the Dewan that he knew the facts to be otherwise.)

The defence concluded by general observations of the kindness, consideration, and mercy shown by the British Government to the Maharajah, and to the Durbar and to all its members, and dwelt on the improbability, not to say impossibility, of their being so mad as to do an act which must endanger not only themselves and their prospects individually, but must affect the interest of the Maharajah and the existence of the Government. It is stated that this was one of the machinations of Maharajah Golab Sing, whose creature the Sheik was, and had always been, and that this infamous plot was contrived by the Maharajah for the destruction of the Durbar.

Dewan Deena Nath stated that he had nothing further to urge, and the Sheik was asked if he had anything to say in reply. He stated, in reference to the assertion, regarding confidential agents never being employed to write to their principals, that he had numberless letters from the Rajah to himself, written by Poorun Chund, which the Rajah could not, if produced, deny; that two of these he had given to Colonel Lawrence at Thanah (these were with Colonel Lawrence's office, which has not yet arrived, and could not be produced,) and that he had one with him which he requested might be examined, and shown the Rajah. This was a letter written to the Sheik, in the handwriting of Poorun Chund, and bearing the signature of the Rajah, evidently corresponding with those in the letter and ikrarnameh. This communication was apparently sent in April or May. It began by lamenting that the Province of Cashmere had been made over to Golab Sing, but stated, that as such was the will of the British Government, it could not be helped. It told him, that when he had made over charge of the Government to the new possessors, he should come to Lahore, where all kindness and consideration would be shown him, and arrangements for his future provision would be made. (The Rajah admitted the authenticity of the letter.)

The Sheik requested that Poorun Chund might be examined as to the important matters in which letters had been written by him in the name of the Rajah, and as to the extent to which the Rajah trusted him. This was assented to. Poorun Chund then commenced disclosures of secret affairs in which he had been employed by the Rajah to write to the Sheik, and other parties, to bring about the murder of Rajah Heera Sing and Pundit Julla, and relative to his having been employed to negotiate the sale of gold stolen from the